

DUDLEY CHRONICLE



Thursday, March 7, 2013

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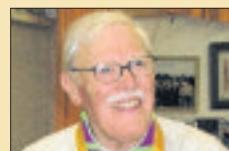
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Scout tribute

Dedicated scoutmaster dies after lifetime service

Page 6



Gornal gone

FA Vase dream comes to an end for Peacocks

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Fresh car parking layout is welcome

TRADERS in Brierley Hill town centre have welcomed a new parking layout.

Four bays for hour-long unloading and parking were introduced along the High Street by Dudley Council at the weekend.

The £100,000 trial scheme is aimed at cutting traffic and providing quick parking for shoppers.

If a success, Councillor Judy Foster says the measure could become permanent.

She said: "We have worked closely with residents and traders in order to find a way to resolve the problems."

Rob Mantle, owner of Coffe Uno and BH Florists in the High Street, was critical of the scheme when it was first announced.

But he said: "It certainly hasn't worsened the situation, if anything, the road is clearer today. Only time will tell if it works."

Kate Wilkinson, owner of Flower Fountain, said: "My concern was the unloading bays would be filled up with shoppers parking, but this morning it was fine for me to park. The road is looking clearer too. I'll give it a week before I fully judge it."

Andy Newsom, owner of Military Zone in High Street, said: "The test will come for it when the market is open during the week."

Fishing ban will be lifted

PLANS to lift a three-month fishing ban at a pool on the Dudley border have been rubber-stamped.

It is claimed the three-month closed season at Great Pool, in Himley Park, is leading to illegal fishing.

Councillor Tracey Wood, agreed to lift the ban, generally operating between mid-March and mid-June, temporarily for this year.

Councillor Wood said the move would allow officers to evaluate the impact of allowing year-round fishing in the pool and what happens to the number of suspected thefts.

RENT-FREE OFFER FOR TOWN STALLS

by Andrew Turton

DUDLEY Market is looking to award rent-free pitches to entrepreneurs with new ideas and products for shoppers in a bid to boost trade in the town centre.

At least five rent-free short-term stalls are being established this May to encourage new entrepreneurs to sell their goods.

Dudley Council is working with the National Market Traders Federation on the rent free pitches initiative which could lead to traders securing a year's reduced rent.

The council-run market has signed up to a scheme called First Pitch to give business owners the chance to trade for up to 12 months at a discounted rate with personalised support from the federation.

Those who successfully apply to the scheme by submitting their product idea at www.nmtf.co.uk by March 15, will initially get up to five free days of trading on Dudley Market during national 'love your local market' fortnight between May 15 and 29.

During this time a national judge will visit and assess the traders before drawing up a shortlist of the best new businesses from across the UK to receive a year of reduced rent and other benefits.

The move comes as deputy council leader, Councillor Shaukat Ali, this week revealed plans for a separate evening market in Dudley. He said this would attract different types of traders from the traditional stalls already in place to add to the offering for shoppers.

Exciting

Councillor Ali said: "This initiative is a really exciting opportunity for anyone considering starting their own business to keep their overheads down while they try something new."

"We hope that this scheme, as part of our wider regeneration plans, will help us maximise the market's potential and encourage more people from the borough and beyond to visit Dudley, increasing footfall and benefiting traders and retailers in the town."

National Market Traders Federation chief executive, Joe Harrison, added: "Many of our well-known brands started life on the markets and we know many people want to take that leap into starting their own business."

The evening market plans would compliment ideas discussed by the new Dudley Town Team.

Anyone interested in First Pitch or other trade offers available on Dudley Market can call the market officer on 07799 070193 or 01384 815264 or visit www.nmtf.co.uk to sign up to the scheme.

• Charges – page 3

Pub's in-cider deals pay off



Manager Dawn O'Neill celebrates with a pint of cider, after her pub The Court House, Dudley, is named Camra's cider pub of the year for the second year running

A DUDLEY pub has won a regional award for the second year running for its traditional ciders.

The Court House, New Street, has been named Cider Pub of the Year 2013 by the Dudley and South Staffordshire Campaign For Real Ale (Camra). The award comes four years after Black Country Ales took over the town centre pub.

Mick and Dawn O'Neill have managed the pub since its reopening after leaving another of the chain's pubs, The Red Cow in Coseley. Mrs O'Neill, aged 46, who is from Bradley in Staffordshire, said: "We were delighted to get the award, especially for a

second year running. It just shows that during difficult economic times, where some pubs are closing, there are still many things to celebrate about the local pub."

Mr and Mrs O'Neill offer a rotating selection of up to 20 real, traditional ciders each year.

Mrs O'Neill said: "There is a real market for traditional ciders again. The ciders have a real mix in tastes and have fewer chemicals than perhaps some national brands."

The pub was presented with the award by Camra. The Court House was also named in the Good Beer Guide 2011.

Black Country Ales has five other pubs in the guide.

Warning of tough times by councillor

THE boss of finance at Dudley Council is warning there are tough times ahead following the rubber-stamping of the council's budget.

Council tax will be frozen for a third year in a row under the Labour-proposed budget agreed on Monday – but savings of £27.5million over the next three years will need to be found.

Councillor Peter Lowe, said the cuts were in response to the 19 per cent reduction in funding from the Government over the next three years.

He said a decision to keep council tax frozen for a third year running was down to the current economic situation and a four-month consultation which involved more than 4,000 people.

Most people answering the consultation said they would pay more in their council tax – but 60 per cent said an increase should not be more than two per cent.

Councillor Lowe said: "We think in these hard economic times and having listened to the people of Dudley that a council tax freeze is by far the best option we can offer.

"Make no doubt, there are tough times ahead, but if we can continue to listen to the public and find ways to save money while, where possible keeping community assets, we will be pleased," he added.

DNA scheme on burglars

POLICE are leading a new scheme aimed at beating prolific burglars across Dudley.

They say the time has come to hit back at thieves who are breaking into homes and businesses to steal precious items.

Officers will visit victims and use a liquid to mark property and the entry to premises where burglars may force their way inside.

It brands items with an "DNA code", allowing police to link a suspect to the stolen items or raided property.

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Almost 90 per cent get first school

CLOSE to nine out of 10 pupils in Dudley have landed their first-choice secondary school place this year.

Council chiefs said 89 per cent of pupils will get their first preference, which is an improvement on last year. Tens of thousands of children across the country have been finding out which school they will be going to in September.

The number of pupils being

offered their top choice school in Dudley has increased slightly from 88 per cent last year to 89 per cent this year.

For the 2013 year there were a total of 3,206 secondary applications – this was down on last year's figure 3,258. Of those, around 2,852 have been offered their first choice for the September 2013 year. This compares to 2,867 applications last year.

Dudley Council spokesman Phil

Parker said this year 98 per cent of pupils received a place at one of their top three choice schools.

Meanwhile in Sandwell around 80 per cent of pupils will get their first

preference for a place in a Sandwell school and out of those, 2,731 were offered – 73.83 per cent.

Figures released in October last

year revealed that more than 3,000 parents in the Black Country and Staffordshire lodged appeals.

2,743 were offered. This compares to 4,543 applications for the September 2012 year that included Sandwell school as a preference.

Of those, there were 3,699 first preferences for a place in a Sandwell school and out of those, 2,731 were offered – 73.83 per cent.

Figures released in October last year revealed that more than 3,000 parents in the Black Country and Staffordshire lodged appeals.

Olympian Kristian's gym hit by cash loss

THE Halesowen gymnastics club of Olympic champion Kristian Thomas has hit "rock bottom" after a move in the town was scuppered – resulting in the loss of almost £30,000 from a sports grant.

Earls Gymnastics Club was to start work this week on an active health centre at the former Wheel Spin go-karting track in Dudley Road after receiving planning permission.

The move from the club's home at Earls High School was described as critical to its future and was to be paid for by the £281,000 grant from British Gymnastics in November. But a breakdown in negotiations between the club and a prospective new landlord ended any chance of the 20-year lease being agreed.

Club chairman Jon Caulwell said the problems lay over an £80,000 deposit required for security.

He said, despite the club already having a planning application in for a gym in Netherton, no site would be ready to start work on before the grant's expiry date, leaving the club penniless. He said: "It has been very disappointing, we have literally been left at rock bottom."

Freeman honour will be bostin' says Lenny

COMEDIAN Lenny Henry said it was bostin' news to be granted the Freedom of Dudley borough – and the town still had a special place in his heart.

The popular star and Comic Relief campaigner will be formally presented with the honour later this year after

councillors agreed he should be recognised. The 54-year-old was awarded the Freeman honour despite claims he failed to give enough back to the town.

But Lenny, who was born near Baffery Park, attended Blue Coat School and often cites stories of growing up in Dudley during his stand up tours, stressed his credentials as he spoke of his delight at being awarded the honour.

"This is bostin' news," he said. "Since my beginnings in showbusiness in 1975, I have reserved a special place for Dudley in my heart."

"These Black Country thoughts have helped me to endure through good times and bad."

Permeated

"Memories of Baffery Park and Douglas Road, Constitution Hill and Hall Street and the canal tunnel and my best friends have permeated my stand-up routines and writing."

"Dudley is a touchstone to me and I hope that comes across in my work."

"Thank you to everyone who voted for me and big love and respect to all my siblings and all my family and friends who still abide in Dudley. I think you're all great."

His most recent show in the town came in May 2011 as part of his Cradle to Rave tour which was based around much of his early life and career. He recalled nights in the Queen Mary ballroom disco in the grounds of Dudley Zoo with a DJ called Oscar Michael, where he first took to the stage to impersonate Elvis.

Mrs Coyle, who paid for a memorial in tribute to the veterans at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, hopes it will be the next Mayor of Dudley.

Mrs Coyle, aged 84, of Derwent Close, Pensnett, said: "I'm delighted we're finally getting the medal."

The pupils were invited to take part by mem-

Pupils plant for park's future

Teacher Liz Cole and Justin Corfield, from Dudley Council's Green Care, with pupils from Lutley Primary School who helped to plant trees which will form an avenue

PUPILS have helped plant a new generation of trees in a Halesowen park creating a feature for visitors.

When fully-grown, it is hoped the trees will create an avenue inside Huntingtree Park at the Thornhill Road entrance.

The Year 5 pupils from Lutley Primary School were invited to take part by mem-

bers of The Friends of Huntingtree Park group. Group members say the lime and hornbeam trees, which border the path to entrance, are among a range of improvements planned.

The children were also given information packs about the trees by Dudley council Green Care staff.

Teenager in canal rescue

A 16-YEAR-OLD girl was rescued from the Dudley No 2 canal in Netherton.

Police pulled her out at the towpath by Vale Road at 3am on Sunday.

The teenager was treated by paramedics and taken to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital as a precaution.

Firefighter Steve Porter said when crews from Cradley Heath arrived the girl was already on the bank of the canal.

He said: "We don't know how she came to be in the canal."

"It was pitch black and very cold."

Plans for office

PLANS to convert a vacant office block in Dudley into flats will go before councillors next week.

Regal Invest LLP has submitted proposals for Nexion House in the Broadway.

The scheme will be discussed by the development control committee on March 11.

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Calls for chapel to be bigger

COUNCIL funding to improve Stourbridge Crematorium has been welcomed – but ward councillors say they still want more to be done.

At a full Dudley Council meeting, members agreed to a proposed capital funding budget, which included £68,000 to be spent on bringing the crematorium up to current standards.

The work will see Dudley Council, the crematorium's operator, upgrade equipment and refurbish the chapel.

But Councillor Elizabeth Walker said more needed to be spent on increasing the capacity of the chapel to stop people having to stand outside during services. She said: "It is extremely difficult to address the whole assembly at a funeral when many people are stood outside."

"We really need to look at increasing the capacity, as well as the work planned."

Councillor David Caunt said: "It has been my misfortune to visit services at Stourbridge Crematorium.

"It strikes me that the money put forward is not enough – this is a big project. I wonder if we could create more space within the chapel."

New service for housing

A NEW housing support service has been set up for residents in Dudley. The council's housing department is running a drop-in service.

In Halesowen sessions are held at the Hope Centre, Block 11, Andrew Road, Halesowen on Wednesdays from 10am until noon. In Brierley Hill at the housing office, Yeovil Court, Brierley Hill on Thursdays from 10am until noon. In Stourbridge sessions are held at Stourbridge Library, Market Street, Stourbridge on Thursdays from 1.30pm until 3.30pm.

Talking dramas

A WORLD famous playwright will be coming to a village near Stourbridge to talk about one of his latest plays.

David Edgar, aged 65, will talk to Belbroughton History Society at the village's church hall on March 20, starting at 8pm. One of his most recent works is called Written on the Heart. Admission to the event is £2.50.

Russells Hall parking fees to rise in cutbacks

PARKING charges will rise and canteen opening hours will be slashed as part of cost-cutting measures at Dudley's three trusts.

Staff will also be asked to wash their uniforms at home rather than use the hospital trust's laundry service, which is being axed. Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the sites, including Russells Hall Hospital, needs to save £15 million by March 2014.

Bosses say proposals to increase car park fees will bring in more than £300,000 a year, which can be spent on clinical ser-

vices. It means from April it will cost £5.50 to park for more than three hours – up from £5.40.

Free parking time has been cut from 30 to 10 minutes and it will now cost £1 to park for up to 30 minutes, when previously there had been no charge.

Under the plans, parking for up to an hour will be increased to £2 from £1.30.

The fee for up to one and a half hours will be £3 – up from £1.90 and the cost of parking for up to three hours will rise to £4 from £3.20.

Parking fees were last increased in

August 2011. Chief executive Paula Clark said: "We do not take decisions to increase charges to patients lightly and this brings the cost of our parking in line with many other trusts locally."

Plans to scale-back the canteen opening hours at Russells Hall, including closing it at weekends, will save the hospital trust £110,000 per year.

Staff are being consulted on the move which has put up to 64 jobs at risk.

Union bosses have spoken out against the move and have vowed to work the hospital to "minimise job losses". Hospital

bosses say the move follows a reduction in customers. Under the proposals, the canteen would only be open between 7am and 2.30pm Monday to Friday.

It is currently open between 7am and 8pm each day. The Costa Coffee branch will not be affected by the changes.

Ms Clark said: "Any decisions to reduce services or facilities that we provide are very difficult to make but, as our commitment to providing the highest standard of care for patients remains our highest priority, we feel it is better to make savings from non-clinical services."

NEWS

in brief

Weapons found with drugs in raid

A CANNABIS factory, samurai sword, knuckle duster and gas-powered firearm was found as a home was raided over suspected animal cruelty.

Six dogs were taken away by the RSPCA from The Broadway, Dudley. A 31-year-old was arrested and bailed for further investigations.

PC Ian Priest said suspected drugs and three offensive weapons had been seized.

Anyone suspecting drug use or suspicious activity should call police on 101.

Volunteers to aid hospice sought

A RECRUITMENT drive for volunteers to help provide valuable care for patients at Kemp Hospice in Kidderminster has been launched.

The hospice has recently expanded to provide bereavement support for adults and children living in the Wyre Forest district. Now qualified therapists are being sought to give help in their spare time to the day hospice.

Anyone wanting more information on the services can call 01562 756000.

MP is backing metal theft law

WYRE Forest MP Mark Garnier has backed plans for new laws aimed at reducing the scourge of metal theft which is growing throughout the district and nationally.

He has welcomed the Scrap Metal Dealers Bill which has passed its final reading in the House of Commons and which is expected to come into effect by Easter, once it receives Royal Assent.

Luxury homes work is started

CONSTRUCTION work for 14 five-bedroomed executive homes has begun on a former reservoir site.

The 4.1 acre site at Sutton Park Road, Kidderminster has been sold by Severn Trent Water to leading housebuilding David Wilson Homes Mercia.

Man is hurt in fall

A MAN suffered serious injuries through falling from a roof in Halesowen. The man, believed to be in his 20s, fell in Long Lane. He had a fractured leg and suspected fractured pelvis.

Other works include the statue of Hygieia at Chequers, the Prime Minister's country residence.

Increased charges at hospital are attacked as just greedy

COUNCILLORS in Dudley have attacked the planned rises in car park charges at Russells Hall as greedy.

Charges will go up at the site from April in a move aimed at bringing in more than £300,000 a year.

Labour councillor Bryan Cotterill, who has campaigned to keep the car parking free of charge, said the proposals were "absolutely appalling and immoral".

The Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood councillor said:

by Sharon Marris

"People don't go to hospital for the joy of it. They go because they're poorly or to visit someone who is poorly."

"I can see no justification for these charges apart from greed."

"We live in a greedy and selfish society."

Councillor Cotterill was a patient at the hospital in January and said the charges his visitors had to pay left him "fuming".

Protest

He said he would like to hear from hospital car park managers Interserve what sort of profit it makes from the car park "because this is just hurting people when they're at their lowest".

The proposals were announced this week as part of wider plans by Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust to save £15 million in 2014-15.

Dudley Council leader David Sparks said: "The council has no control over the issue but we have to deal with the problem of people being driven out of hospital

"This should be some means of standard token fee such as a 50p fee. I don't think anybody would mind that but these charges are just about making a profit."

Dudley Council leader David Sparks said car-parking charges at hospitals were "a national scandal".

There should be a national inquiry into this area as Russells Hall Hospital is just one of many that are constantly increasing their charges."

Company is expanding

A BRIERLEY Hill company specialising in 4x4 and pick-up vehicle accessories has invested £250,000 in new manufacturing space and will create 15 new jobs as a result.

Auto Styling Truckman has taken two units at Hurst Business Park, Pedmore Road, near its current 12,000 sq ft base.

The units, which are on a 10-year lease, will provide 15,000 sq ft of manufacturing space where the company will make its Truckman branded pick-up hardtops.



Senior valuer Mark Hannam with the statue which could sell for at least £20,000

Hope of £20,000 on statue

A DUDLEY auctioneers says a lead statue fund in undergrowth in a garden may fetch as much as £20,000.

Antiques expert Mark Hannam, senior valuer at Fieldings auctioneers, Stourbridge, told of the "heart-stopping moment" when he found it in undergrowth in a North Worcestershire family's garden.

The 4ft tall, Georgian-style one-and-a-half-tonne statue – called Dryad and Boar – was bought by the family in the 1960s for £200 but Mr Hannam values it at £4,000-£6,000 and says it may well fetch up to £20,000.

It bears the stamp of the Bromsgrove Guild, an arts movement of skilled craftsmen, and depicts a boy hunter attacking a wild boar.

When the owner of the detached country home, between Bromsgrove and Worcester, died in November, Mr Hannam went to the site and made the find, to be auctioned at Fieldings on March 9.

The Bromsgrove Guild, founded by Walter Gilbert in 1898, was based on principles of the Arts and Crafts movement.

Other works include the statue of Hygieia at Chequers, the Prime Minister's country residence.

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NEWS

**THE BEST
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AN AUSTRALIAN billionaire, Clive Palmer, has unveiled plans to build a new liner identical to the ill-fated Titanic. Rumour has it the Canadians are working on a replica iceberg.

□□□□□□□

TWENTY years from now, with a power cut every day, our seas fished to extinction and our sovereignty eroded to the state where young British men are conscripted into an EU army to fight in Africa, our grandchildren will ask, what were the politicians doing back in 2013? And we will have to tell them that instead of planning for the future or looking after this nation's interests, they were spending an awful lot of time trying to find out whether a lord had put his hand on a lady's leg.

□□□□□□□

SPOT the difference. A reporter who exposes your political enemy as a bounder is an investigative journalist in the finest traditions of the profession. A reporter who exposes scandal in your own political party is, if I may quote Nick Clegg, "a self-appointed detective." As a general rule, beware of any politician who says: "I believe in a free Press," and then adds the word "but."

□□□□□□□

WAG! the magazine of the Dogs Trust, has a feature in its Spring edition on preparing tasty meals for pooches. It is headlined: The Great British Bark Off.

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ANYONE who did National Service will recognise the process by which the Pope is being eased out of the Vatican. It is Benedict's demob day, the moment when he hands in all the kit that goes with uniformed service and picks up a new thirty-bob suit to see him into civvy street. "Right, your Holiness. Sign here for one cloak (white), one hat (ex-papal) and one pair brogues (leather, brown). Oi, Mr Emeritus! Where d'you think you're going with them red shoes?"

□□□□□□□

SOME will accuse the BBC of censorship in blanking-out so many paragraphs in the report on the Jimmy Savile affair. That's one interpretation. However, it could be argued that XXXXXXXX-XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX or possibly not.

□□□□□□□

THE late, great Richard Briers once told me a delightful story against himself, a tale of thespian pride colliding with hard-headed capitalism. It was 20-odd years ago when the Good Life star joined Kenneth Branagh's theatre company and got rave reviews as King Lear. At the same time Briers was the public face of the Nescafe TV ads. He recalled turning up to record an advert. "Richard," said the director sternly. "That beard. It's got to go."

"Oh no," Briers explained. It's for the stage."

"The beard goes," insisted the director.

"But I'm playing Lear in Branagh's new company," protested the actor. And the outcome? "The beard went." Briers told me with a chuckle as we chatted at Birmingham Hippodrome. In the great scheme of things, those 30-second coffee commercials paid far more than the theatre. In fact, as Briers confided: "One Nescafe ad pays my tax for the year." He who pays the piper not only calls the tune but also wields the razor. It seems unnecessary to add that Briers was a delightful interview, but he was.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes
every Monday to Friday in
your Express & Star**

New law is working on metal thefts

METAL theft across the West Midlands is at its lowest level in two years, claim police, with chiefs praising new laws to cut cash payments for scrap.

Latest figures showed reports peaking last May with around 850 metal thefts a month, but in December there were 100.

It still equates to more than three a day, but the region's Police and

Crime Commissioner Bob Jones paid tribute to officers' efforts to drive down a problem that had become the scourge of churches, schools, homeowners and even blighted the public transport network. Mr Jones said:

"Metal thefts in December 2012 were the lowest we've seen, which is a huge achievement. I would like to congratulate West Midlands Police and partners for making this possi-

ble. The police, local authorities, MPs, councillors, and many others campaigned for many years to end cash payments for scrap metal, and we are starting to see the fruits of these new laws."

Mr Jones said the public and private sector had teamed up to tackle metal thieves, and that collaboration was now paying dividends. A recent joint inspection showed the

results, he said, as it included West Midlands Police, British Transport Police, BT, Virgin Media and representatives from the firm producing SmartWater – an invisible substance used to forensically mark goods so they are easier to trace if they are stolen. Network Rail figures showed crooks struck 98 times on train lines in the region between April 2010 and August last year.

Society in return to national lending

DUDLEY Building Society has returned to nationwide lending with the launch of a variety of new offers for home owners and buyers.

The society, based in Stone Street, had imposed geographical lending, restricting products to local customers.

This has now been lifted as it looks to increase mortgage lending.

The offers include the Dudley's new two-year discounted rate deal at 2.29 per cent, a discount of 2.70 per cent off its standard variable rate.

Maximum loan to value is 75 per cent and an arrangement fee of £995 is payable.

The discounted rate is available for both home purchase and remortgage – with the added attraction of free legal fees and free valuation for borrowers who want to remortgage.

Dudley Building Society chief executive Jeremy Wood said: "Up until relatively recently, we were a little concerned that we did not want to be flooded out and deal with large volumes, but the market has changed significantly over the past few months and availability of finance is much better."

A FAMILY of three has admitted cruelty to four horses in Dudley in what the RSPCA has described as "a serious case of neglect".

The mother, father and their son were accused of more than 50 charges in relation to horses being kept at Fens Pool Nature Reserve in Pensnett, Brierley Hill. Walter Hickman, aged 52, admitted 20 charges while his wife Amanda, aged 49, admitted 16.

Their son Kevin, aged 23, pleaded guilty to 18 charges. A further four charges were later dropped by the RSPCA.

RSPCA chiefs said they were pleased the family had acknowledged their responsibility to the animals kept at Fens Pool. All four horses have survived despite their ordeal.

Concerns have been raised over the welfare of horses grazing on land at the beauty spot. Dudley Council is working with the RSPCA and West Midlands Police on a scheme to remove any animals found wandering into nearby roads and also ensuring horses on the reserve are healthy.

Unnecessary

Full details about the case have yet to emerge in court but charges reveal the trio, of Wallows Road in Brierley Hill, were accused of causing unnecessary suffering to four horses between March 11.

The work involves shoring the bank, which runs along the end of gardens in Margaret Drive, with wooden rakes and will cost £10,000.

At a recent full council meeting, Councillor Judy Foster, said officers were working with nearby residents on the scheme. A meeting was held with residents in Cranbourne Road, one of the streets impacted by a diversion.

Councillor Ray Burston said: "I am pleased to hear that the council has received the funds for essential work to maintain the highway. But I'm concerned about the impact of the resulting road diversion from the closure.

"The road had 2,000 daily users and there is already a situation of vehicles mounting the pavements of surrounding roads and causing a danger."

They will be sentenced on March 20.

Landslide road part open now

A ROAD in Stourbridge closed after a landslide on Christmas Eve will be partially reopened within two weeks.

Dudley Council was forced to shut Red Hill after a wall collapsed, causing piles of earth to fall on the road and block the route. Work has since been carried out to the retaining wall and officers hope to reopen one lane of the affected stretch on March 11.

The work involves shoring the bank, which runs along the end of gardens in Margaret Drive, with wooden rakes and will cost £10,000.

Following the guilty pleas, Jackie Hickman, an RSPCA inspector and equine officer, said: "This was a serious case of equine neglect involving more than one animal and I'm pleased the family have acknowledged their responsibility towards these animals, albeit at a very late stage in proceedings."

The horses had been kept at Fens Pool Nature Reserve between November 2 and December 22, in 2011.

Amanda and Kevin Hickman appeared at Dudley Magistrates' Court on February 26 for trial but at the last minute they entered guilty pleas.

Walter Hickman was unable to attend because he had been taken to hospital during the weekend. All three were bailed unconditionally while a pre-sentence report is prepared.

They then stole a silver chain with a crucifix on it from around his neck and two gold bracelets from his wrist before running off. He suffered a cut lip and bruising in the attack. Officers revealed details of the raid in a bid to find witnesses or anyone with anyone with information about the crime, which happened at around 9.50am on January 9. DC Paul Widdal, from Dudley CID, said: "This was a despicable crime where the cruel and cowardly offenders have deliberately targeted a vulnerable member of the community."



One of the horses that was badly neglected at Fens Pool Nature Reserve



Amanda Hickman admitted 16 charges



Kevin Hickman admitted 18 charges

Man, 76, attacked at home

TWO robbers burst into an elderly man's home in Dudley and stole the jewellery he was wearing.

The two men knocked on the 76-year-old's door at his home in Brereton Close and when he answered they forced their way in, punching him to the floor.

They then stole a silver chain with a crucifix on it from around his neck and two gold bracelets from his wrist before

running off. He suffered a cut lip and bruising in the attack. Officers

revealed details of the raid in a bid to find witnesses or anyone with anyone with information about the crime, which happened at around 9.50am on January 9. DC Paul Widdal, from Dudley CID, said: "This was a despicable crime where the cruel and cowardly offenders have deliberately targeted a vulnerable member of the community."

Appeal aims for £150,000

A £150,000 appeal has been launched to raise cash towards the final phase of the restoration of St George's Hall in Bewdley.

Work is already underway on a three-storey extension to the building in High Street, which is being funded with a grant from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

It will expand the size of the hall and also provide space for a cafe, toilets and meeting rooms.

Bosses also want to create smaller rooms which can be hired out to local organisations to generate funds.

Prescriptions up

PRESCRIPTION charges in Dudley will rise 20p to £7.85 under changes announced by the Government. The 2.5 per cent rise starts April 1.

Health Minister Earl Howe said NHS dental charges will also increase on the same date. Those exempt from charges in England include children under 16.

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New rights on bids for buildings



The late Jack Wilson MBE

COMMUNITY and voluntary groups will have the right to bid to take over council-owned buildings and land in Dudley, under new plans to give residents a say in how their communities are run.

A register of properties or available assets such as youth or community centres will be held by council officers.

Organisations will be able to put together a business plan for leasing the properties. Council leader David Sparks said the proposals would enable residents to have a bigger role in how their communities are run.

There also plans for the council to keep a list of privately owned sites.

Under the Localism Act 2011, groups will have the right to bid for the property.

Councillor Sparks said: "It's all about giving people more influence on what is happening in their community."

Councillor Gaye Partridge, added: "The community asset transfer programme offers the chance to manage council owned property on a long-term basis. The second scheme, assets of community value, gives a legal right to bid for publicly or privately owned buildings or land of community value at the time

Travel firm loses £16m

THE loss of a million elderly and disabled passengers has punched a £16million hole in profits at National Express.

It lost the passengers as a result of government action to remove its coach concessionary fare scheme for senior citizens.

Chief executive Dean Finch said the result "made 2012 one of the most difficult years in National Express Coaches' 40-year history and has driven the decline in National Express Group's operating profit".

As a result, the Birmingham-based transport group saw its pre-tax profits fall to £164m for 2012 - down from £180m the year before.

Pc death hearing

AN inquest has been opened into the death of Smethwick police officer who died after a disturbance outside a Wolverhampton bar. The coroner's court was told Pc Chris Findley died as a result of a brain injury after hitting his head on the pavement on January 28.

Colourful and long-serving Jack dies at 94

COLOURFUL, charismatic and fully committed to the people he represented - long-serving Dudley councillor Jack Wilson MBE was "one of a kind in politics" to most people who knew him.

The former councillor who served Coseley from 1949 to 2002 was often remembered for putting his constituents before political party, fiercely lobbying fellow politicians and his memorable catchphrase "Do you know who I am?"

His life of public service was arguably unrivalled he was first

elected to Coseley Urban District Council, then Staffordshire County Council, followed by Dudley Borough Council until he retired due to ill health.

Recently, he is perhaps best known for his long campaigning to save Coseley Baths, an issue which left him "deeply upset" when it was demolished in 2010, according to his son John.

He was mayor of Dudley in 1975-76 and was awarded an MBE and Freeman of Dudley in 1989. Following his death at Broadway Hall Care

Home in Dudley on February 23, aged 94, colleagues at Dudley Council paid tribute to him.

Councillor Les Jones said: "People like Jack who are really committed to the local community and spend their entire life time helping them are hard to find. I know Jack was very well respected on both sides of the chamber." His catchphrase 'Do you know who I am?' will be long remembered by all who knew him. He was truly a one of a kind in politics. Mr Wilson was born at the New Inn in Broad Street, Coseley -

the pub his parents John and Maud ran. He attended Mount Pleasant School in Coseley, before leaving at 14 and pursuing a career in men's fashion, setting up a business supplying nearby traders with clothes.

He married Margaret Wilson, at Ebenezer Church in Coseley in 1966. His son, John Wilson, 44, said: "He was certainly an enthusiastic person dedicated to the cause of Coseley and wider area. The four key things in his life were family, Coseley, the fire service and education."

NEWS in brief

Start of parking scheme in town

A NEW parking scheme which has been introduced in Brierley Hill High Street aims to reduce traffic delays, the borough's transport boss said.

Parking and waiting restrictions will come into force, marking the final stage of a congestion-busting multi-million pound scheme.

Four new bays allowing people to park along the street will be introduced.

Four separate disabled parking areas will also be created near Brierley Hill Police Station.

Cricket student is now on board

A SPORTS coaching student from Stourbridge has been recruited by the Worcestershire County Cricket Board.

Katie Blunt, aged 20, will work as a cricket development coach. The third-year student at the University of Worcester will help create and run cricket coaching programmes to primary and secondary schools. Katie started coaching at 16, having practiced the sport from the age of seven.

Legal changes on surveillance

CHANGES in legislation governing surveillance used by local authorities could thwart attempts by councils to clamp down on fly-tippers, a leading Wyre Forest councillor has warned.

Councillor Marcus Hart told Wyre Forest District Council some surveillance could not be carried out unless a crime was punishable by a prison sentence of six months or more.

Table top event to help costs of hall

A TABLE top sale will be held at a village hall near Stourbridge with cash raised used to cover the venue's running costs.

The event will be held on April 13 from 9.30am to 12.30pm at Stourton Village Hall, off Bridgnorth Road. To book a table call secretary and treasurer Margaret Rogers on 01384 872073.

Charity cake sale

DUDLEY Bliss is holding a charity cake sale on Friday March 8, from 10am to 2pm at The Secret Coffee Club, Insight House, Pearson Street, off High Street, Brierley Hill. Proceeds will go to Cake-a-Difference.

Fears stray horses will become food

STRAY horses, known as fly grazers, roaming the region could be ending up in the food chain farmers.

The concerns were announced on the same day that furniture giant Ikea announced it is withdrawing wiener sausages in Britain, France, Spain, Ireland and Portugal after tests confirmed "a few indications of horse meat".

Farming bosses have now called for stricter control on "shambolic" horse passport regulations in the wake of the horse meat scandal and Tesco announced it will source more of its meat from the UK. The move comes two days after it withdrew Swedish meatballs from stores across Europe, Asia and the Caribbean.

Farmers are concerned the horses, known as fly grazers, are being shipped across the border to abattoirs on the continent using forged passports.

There are worries these fly grazers could include horses that are left to roam on land, or tethered, in Tipton. Sandwell councillor Derek Rowley said: "There are foals in Tipton and when they are six months old they mysteriously go missing, and they have done for years."

"There have always been rumours the horse owners are shipping the foals to Belgium. I don't know what to believe, but they go somewhere because they are not stopping round here." The National Farmers Union adviser David Collier said: "It does seem quite plausible that horses from Tipton are ending up in the food chain."

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told last July that Worwood uploaded some images and movies on to a file-sharing website. He had more than 700 images and movies of children, with 15 films classed as the most serious category. He had pleaded guilty to nine charges of possessing indecent images and one of distribution.

Passing sentence, Judge Martin Walsh told him: "You had absolutely no control over where the images went. They are images of real children being subjected to real abuse." None of the images or films involved pupils from St Edmund's.

The Teaching Agency disciplinary panel has also published its findings into the case, saying: "Mr Worwood, in behaving in this way, fell far below the personal and professional standards the public expect teachers to observe. By behaving as he did, Mr Worwood has undermined public confidence in the profession. We are driven to the conclusion that he cannot be allowed to return to the teaching."

Sunday trials pilot

ALMOST 200 defendants have been processed through the criminal courts on a Sunday since the launch of a pilot scheme in the West Midlands. The region's police force is one of 48 areas taking part in testing the scheme.

The text message millionaires



Robin and Christine Kiddie, from Ludlow, celebrate after winning £6,299,421.

IT was a simple text message which told the family of Cradley Heath sales manager Robin Kiddie that they were millionaires.

In fact it had won £6.3 million on the National Lottery.

Mr Kiddie, a commercial and export sales manager at Cradley Heath company Kingfisher Industrial, said he was still trying to get his head around the huge win.

The 60-year-old and his wife Christine were officially unveiled as jackpot winners - and revealed plans to splash out on a Mercedes.

The pair, who live in Ludlow, Shropshire, won £6,299,421 in the February 22 draw. The couple, who won the cash as part of a

six-strong family syndicate, picked their numbers through a combination of birthdays and old pool numbers. They did not realise they had won the jackpot until the following Monday.

Mr Kiddie then sent a text to his children stating: "Good news, I have just won £6.3 million on the lottery."

Mr Kiddie has said he now plans to retire, while Mrs Kiddie is yet to decide whether she will continue to work as a bank nurse at Ludlow Hospital.

Mr Kiddie said: "I still can't quite believe it now." The pair said they were "delighted" their children would be financially secure for the rest of their lives.

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NEWS FEATURE



AT the moment our towns and cities need all the help they can get, so it is heartening to see that a vacant unit in one struggling town centre is about to be converted into a bistro.

And very nice it looks too. But given that the bistro in question is in the heart of the Black Country, I'm not too sure about the name.

The Crepe Station. Am I the only one who sees a problem with this? ☐☐☐☐☐

A SAD story about the couple who got divorced following a row about the wife's map-reading skills during a wine-tasting tour of France.

It makes you wonder whether, 50 years from now, golden wedding couples will be citing a good sat-nav system as the key to a long and happy marriage. Indeed, in today's technology-obsessed society, there are probably some who would consider their sat-nav to make the perfect spouse.

While it doesn't listen to you and gives out instructions in a hectoring tone, you can at least turn the sound off when it gets annoying.

And then, when you find yourself lost in some farmer's field miles from where you are meant to be, you turn it back on, without having to admit it was right all along. ☐☐☐☐☐

FACED with the worst shop vacancy rate in the country, it is good to see that civic leaders in Dudley are fighting back.

Investing £150,000 in car parks sounds like good news, particularly given that some of the money will be spent on repairing potholes. Oh, and they will also benefit from "upgraded" pay-and-display machines.

New pay-and-display meters. That's sure to get the punters flocking back. ☐☐☐☐☐

LET'S get this right. Britain lost its AAA credit rating because the economy is riddled with debt. The Government is drowning in debt after years of living beyond its means, the general public is drowning in debt, with thousands of families struggling to meet their commitments. And the banks were drowning in debt until they were bailed out by the Government which is also drowning in debt.

But don't worry, the Bank of England has a radical solution. "Negative interest rates", in other words charging the banks (which we are financing) interest on their cash deposits (which belong to us) in order to encourage them to lend more of our money back to us, creating even more debt.

Sometimes there's a lot to be said for being a simple Black Country 'mon'.



George as a choirboy



George receiving a certificate of merit from Chief constable Edward Crew of West Midlands Police



George in the Royal Marines

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A WALSALL churchman's wife celebrated a very special holy trinity after giving birth to her third son with the same birthday.

Mrs Lilian Green gave birth to a boy at Walsall Manor Hospital on March 6 1983, having previously had Geoffrey on the same date in 1978 and Joseph in 1980.

A WOLVERHAMPTON church threatened with demolition reopened after a £200,000 facelift.

The congregation returned to the Darlington Street Methodist church for a service to celebrate the completion of.

NEARLY 400 people queued for just 36 jobs at a Tipton foundry after workers forced recruitment by banning overtime.

The line-up started at dawn at Beans Foundry in Hurst Lane, just hours after shopfloor jobs were up on the noticeboard.

1993....

WOLVES slumped to a 3-1 defeat at West Ham as the football world mourned the death of Bobby Moore.

The main gates and course at the ground were turned into a shrine for the star who had died days earlier.

STRIKING lecturers caused classes to be cancelled at colleges across the region.

Students were sent home from colleges across the region after hundreds of teaching staff walked out over proposed changes to contracts.

COUNCILLORS branded a two-year old boy a vandal after he left a trail of destruction in a remembrance garden near Wolverhampton.

The toddler was using a stick to remove the heads off daffodils. Codsall Parish Council agreed to write a letter of protest to the mother.

2003...

THREE jaguar limousines were custom-built by a specialist Black Country firm to protect Tony Blair from any possible terrorist attack.

The Government placed an order with S Mac-Neill of Walsall to add £200,000 of James Bond style security devices to each of the vehicles.

A SIX-YEAR-OLD boy and his father were rescued from the chilly waters of a lake after their sailing dingy capsized. Two Wombourne police officers waded into Himley Lake, near Wolverhampton to rescue them.

TWO swimming pools at Wolverhampton's Heath Town Leisure were closed, despite protests at a public meeting. The decision came after a report revealed more than £250,000 would have to be spent on structural work.

Scouts have lost an 'exceptional' leader

George Cox MBE, who was dedicated to the Scouts, has died aged 89, HEATHER LARGE looks back over his life

TRIBUTES have been paid to an "exceptional" scout leader who has died after more than five decades of service.

George Cox, who was awarded an MBE for his work in the community in Sedgley, was 89.

The former Royal Marine had worked tirelessly for 1st Sedgley Scout Group since the 1960s which included fundraising for a headquarters as members were using makeshift rented accommodation.

His dream became reality with the opening of a new building in 1977 and it is still used today by the scouts and other community groups, including 1st Sedgley Morris Men of which he was an honorary member.

Cox's Folly stands proud in the grounds in recognition of his legacy.

Retiring

After retiring from scout leadership, he remained an active member of the Scout Active Support Unit and voluntary caretaker for Jubilee Scout Hall – the building he worked so hard to create.

Vice-chairman of 1st Sedgley Scout Group, David Baugh said: "Typically he could always be found behind the scenes or in the kitchen helping run events: bedding plant sales, Burns' nights, May fayres, coffee mornings and open nights. It gave him immense satisfaction to see the building well-maintained and being used by young and old."

In recognition to his commitment to Scouting, he was awarded the Medal of Meritorious Conduct by the Scout Association in 1985 and in 2003 the Silver



David Baugh, vice-chairman of 1st Sedgley Scout Group and George Cox at Cox's Folly built in honour of him to carry on his legacy in the scouts

Acorn for "distinguished service". In 1993 Mr Cox researched and published a book on the history of 1st Sedgley Scout Group from 1910 and he planted a commemorative tree in the Scout grounds in 2007 to mark 100 years of Scouting.

Mr Cox was also a member of Sedgley Local History Society and in 2001 he responded to a national appeal by the

Imperial War Museum for help in identifying and recording war memorials.

George recruited volunteers to help and more than 60 previously unrecorded memorials have so far been identified in this ongoing exercise.

George has visited them all and painstakingly recorded every detail of their design, insignia and rolls of honour. In 1993 George accepted an invita-

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LETTERS

Hippodrome means regeneration

HOW predictable of Lowell Williams – Principal of Dudley College – to come out in favour of demolishing Dudley Hippodrome using the now somewhat tired argument that the building is a major eyesore in a highly visible and conspicuous gateway location.

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome do not disagree that the current state of the building makes it less than attractive, but this view ignores the building's great potential.

The 1,752 seat theatre is the second largest in the whole Midlands and if it were in London's West End there

would be 36 theatres smaller than Dudley Hippodrome. Theatres open on average around 260 days a year, drawing many thousands of people to their town, many of whom arrive before the performance to park and dine, a proportion of whom stay on afterwards.

Also, afterwards the same visitors, many of whom would not otherwise have visited Dudley, would spread good word of mouth about the town. Doesn't this sound like regeneration? The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome all support the Zoo and Black Country Museum and want to work with both.

Theatre-going is a night-time activity which extends the visitor day and experience on from the Zoo and Museum's opening times. Lowell Williams claims to be investing £30m in Dudley. Dudley Hippodrome can be fully restored for between 10 and 20 per cent of that.

Perhaps he could care to demonstrate how a local college for local people can deliver the scale of regeneration that the Hippodrome can – for much less cost.

GORDON DOWNING
Dibdale Road
Dudley

Smoking out truth of the tobacco industries

RE: the letter from Alan Peace (Feb25).

For the anti-smoking lobby to claim the tobacco industry has some sort of monopoly in exaggerating the truth is ridiculous.

The "truth" is of course nobody knows how much tobacco is smuggled into the UK but I would say the tobacco industry has a better idea than anyone else because it recognises fluctuations in its sales figures.

Whilst we are on "truths", how about the one where the Australian government stated unequivocally that using plain packaging will not decrease tobacco sales? Or the American study which concluded the effects of passive smoking cannot be proven to cause significant deaths?

The anti-lobby has become a huge self serving beast which regularly buries evidence to suit itself.

STEVE SANT
Dudley

LETTERS to the Editor**POST**

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Time will tell on the HS2 white elephant

IN 20 years' time, perhaps, the white elephants known as HS1 and HS2 will have been built at a cost of billions.

An estimated cost has been given but previous painful experience tells us that, if the lines get built at all, the projects will almost certainly finish up costing at least double the given estimate.

In the meantime, in less than two months time, this country's spare energy capacity will be reduced from 20 percent to five percent, with the very real prospect of power cuts. This situation has been described by Ofgem as precarious and it is the direct result of the total failure of successive governments' energy policies and their obsession with sticking to carbon emissions targets imposed on us by the rest of the world, including countries such as China, India and the USA, all of whom ignore the targets.

Instead of blighting people's lives for years with the threat of a project that very few people want and only a tiny minority will benefit from, the governments of this country need to start to get a grip on reality and start spending the billions they are proposing for the pointless high speed rail projects, to deal with the problems we are facing today.

R A SARGEANT, Corporation Road, Dudley

Parking charges will not be a deterrent

RE: pressure being put upon Westfield – the owners of the Merry Hill Shopping Complex – to introduce car parking charges in the hope of thereby persuading shoppers to go elsewhere – presumably the high streets and markets of other towns.

I have every sympathy with the owners and traders in these places who are restricted by access, planning permission, traffic, etc, but Merry Hill has been in existence for at least a quarter of a century – time enough for planners to come up with co-ordinated ideas to help local traders.

As it is, I suspect shoppers would still pay to park at Merry Hill where there is ease of access for all, protection from the elements and passing traffic, every facility to aid easy shopping, toilets maintained in a high level of cleanliness and an impressive choice of food to eat.

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NEWS

JB's knocked back as bid for banquets is refused

A question of artwork



Artist Luke Perry with, left to right, assistant librarian Wendy Tibbets and library assistant Louise Moore launch the artwork sessions for the redeveloped Crown Centre at Stourbridge Library

DUDLEY industrial artist Luke Perry is posing a question to residents after being commissioned with creating new artwork to take pride of place inside Stourbridge's redeveloped Crown Centre.

The stylish piece of metal art would be suspended above the entrance to Stourbridge Library which forms a focal point for the centre surrounding it.

Mr Perry has been commissioned by Tesco, which is behind the development scheme. But he says residents' views will help inspire the final design. Workshops were held at Stourbridge Library for people to give their own ideas which could be seen by generations of people in the future."

It would be made from stainless steel.

THE NEW owners of revamped nightclub JB's have suffered a knockback as their bid to host conferences and banquets has been thrown out.

Its bosses were hoping to use Dudley Zoo's private car park for the use of guests during functions at the venue.

But in a letter to council planners, the zoo's chief executive Peter Suddock said the car park, off Castle Hill, Dudley, is strictly for use of the attraction's customers and has restricted opening hours.

Dudley Council's planning department this week announced it has refused a retrospective application on a change of use for the nightclub to allow JB's to hold other events such as conferences and banqueting.

But JB's owner Ramesh Ahir, who reopened the former rock music venue last year, said it was business as usual and added he would be consulting solicitors over launching an appeal against the council's decision.

He says that nightclub customers have been able to use the car park under previous owners and he hopes to come to an agreement with the zoo.

Planning officers, in a report announcing the decision, said: "The continued use of the property for a mix of uses including a nightclub, banqueting suite and conference facilities would raise significant highway safety concerns." Mr Ahir today said he was disappointed by the decision, adding: "We will carry on and stay open but we will look to appeal against this."

Delve into hidden museum

PEOPLE can learn more about the Worcestershire County Museum at Hartlebury with a tour behind the scenes. Visitors can learn more about the collections in store and items which have never been displayed. The tours will take place on the first Wednesday of the month, from April to October. Tickets can be booked by calling the museum on 01299 250416.

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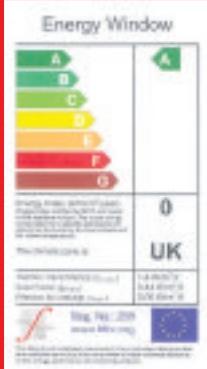
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NEWS

Snipping for charity



Natalie Crutchley at Jimmy Trims in Wolverhampton, which is cutting its prices and donating proceeds to charity

A BOOMING chain of barber shops with branches across the region, including Dudley, is snipping its prices and donating its takings to charity.

On March 5, all Jimmy Trims shops will be offering haircuts at a minimum price of £1, with proceeds going to two different causes. Over the past year, barber shops have opened in High Street, Stourbridge, Jeffcock Road, Penn, Wolverhampton, Wolverhampton Street, Willenhall and Wyrley Brook Road, Cannock, and.

Business owner Mimzy Khattar, aged 30, said giving something back to the community is key to what the company does. He said he and his business partner Ian Matto decided to raise money for Let Us Play, which provides activities for children and young people with special needs, and Promise Dreams, which raises money for children who are seriously or terminally ill.

He said: "It's putting something back into the local community. It's all very good raising money for international charities but sometimes you need to look nearer to home." The company flew to success in the last year by introducing cult comics and vintage music at their premises.

Mr Khattar said: "Our customers seem to really appreciate what we do. It keeps people entertained."

Visit www.jimmytrims.com

Plumber in attack with crowbar on woman's car

A DUDLEY PLUMBER smashed up a woman's car with a crowbar on a busy road then told police he had no recollection of it.

Dominic Haskew had been embroiled in a row with the victim as they drove along the A456 in Halesowen and took offence when she gestured towards him. Wolverhampton Crown Court was told how Haskew slammed his brakes on and then attacked the car before driving off.

The attack on April 21 last year showered the victim and her husband in glass but she was able to note his registration.

When police arrived at the 51-year-old's home in Bury Crescent, Wollescote, Stourbridge, his number plates had been removed but when he was questioned by officers he claimed he couldn't remember anything about the attack.

It emerged in the case that Haskew had himself been a victim of an attempted robbery when he was hit over the head with a metal bar and thieves attempted to take his tools.

Mr Michael Aspinall, defending, said: "There's not a lot I can say about this offence because Mr Haskew can't remember any of it - he can't believe he had any involvement which explains his no comment in interview. He was the victim of an

attack in 2011 where he was hit over the head with a metal bar. He suffered a heart attack a few months later. However, this is a shameful act, he pleaded guilty at the first available opportunity and his involvement in this offence is wholly wrong."

Haskew admitted three charges of careless driving, criminal damage and affray. He was given a nine-month prison sentence suspended for 18 months and a 12-month supervision order.

He was also handed a two month curfew to stay at his home address between 1pm and midnight, six points on his licence and he must pay £250 compensation.

Judge Michael Challinor while passing sentence said: "This offence has had a significant affect on the victim. By maintaining the attack there was intent to injure her."

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NEWS

Threatened child centres are safe for 12 months

Auditions open for Annie



Front, from left, from Bilston Operatic Society, Chloe Freeman-Chick, aged 13, Amy Sheffield, 16, back from left, Rebecca Luter, 15, Katie Sanger and Laura Morris, both 16, with Danny the dog

TWENTY under-threat children's centres in one borough will remain open for at least another 12 months despite cuts in funding that have left their long-term future in jeopardy.

Concerns were raised for Dudley's 20 centres after a grant used to fund them was cut by £2.8million for 2013/14.

But while neighbouring councils, including Wolverhampton, have announced centre closures, Dudley Council's cabinet member for education, Tim Crumpton, said no centres in the borough would shut for at least a year.

Instead, they will all be brought under the council's full control from April 1.

Councillor Crumpton, however, warned changes to the way the services are run were needed. He said: "We have made the decision to ensure no children's centre will close over the next 12 months despite the cut in funding from the Government."

"During the next 12 months we will be holding a consultation on the running of the centres – part of this will be to find how we can run them at a lower cost."

Currently five of the 20 children centres in the borough are managed by a contractor and another three are run by schools. From April 1, all will be fully managed by the council. The move will save £320,000.

Wolverhampton City Council this week announced plans to reduce the number of its centres from 17 to eight after losing £3.88m of funding.

Staples closes down shop

STATIONERY chain Staples has closed its store at Merry Hill as part of a "strategic plan to accelerate growth and better serve evolving needs of customers".

Staples has shut its outlet at the Dudley shopping centre as part of its nationwide closure programme of 23 of its 134 stores.

Spokesman for Staples, Olga Joven would not reveal the number of staff redundancies.

YOUNG stage stars are wanted to audition for a part in *Annie*, a new production to be performed at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre.

Auditions will be held for roles, including the lead role of Annie, in the show, which will be staged by Bilston Operatic Society. Performers are being invited to show off their talents at auditions at Tettenhall College, Wood Road, Wolverhampton on March 24.

For more information about the auditions call 01902 745739 or email bilston operatic@hotmail.co.uk.

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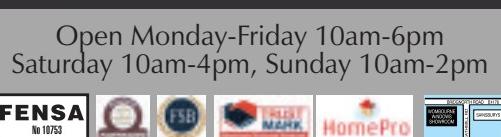
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Colourful prize-winning shot which was taken by Eric Broadbent

Moody monochrome picture by Michael Edwards

Some of the pictures which are on show in the annual exhibition



Eric Broadbent, club secretary, looks over the photos on show. He was delighted to win one of the leading prizes

Eric snaps up top spot after 40 years

PROLIFIC photographers from a Dudley club are aiming to click with the public at their annual exhibition.

Veteran cameraman Eric Broadbent, now aged 83, is particularly chuffed.

Mr Broadbent has snapped up the prize for best colour print for the first time in more than 40 years with Dudley Camera Club.

The shutters came off to unveil the show at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery on Saturday, displaying 178 mounted photos and a further 128 images projected on a screen.

They were selected from a total of 338 prints and 182 projector images entered by 25 of the club's 44 members.

The overall best image was judged to be a fashionable monochrome shot of the Forest of Dean, taken by Michael Edwards, aged in his 70s, from Sedgley.

Mr Broadbent, the club secretary, who lives in Blakelawn Road, Halesowen, was pleased that his own winning colour print was of a subject in the Dudley borough.

It was of an A3 print of a multi-coloured contemporary glass bowl, which was on display at the Festival of Glass at the Ruskin Centre in Stourbridge in August.

Mr Broadbent has amassed a collection of almost 1,000 cameras over the years.

"With foreign holidays more common these days, it's quite unusual for a subject close to home to be picked as a winner," said Mr

Broadbent, retired director of patient services for the National Health Service in Sandwell. "I've taken best monochrome and various other prizes over the years since joining the club in 1969, but this is the first time I've won the one for the best colour print."

"I'm pleased as punch. The bowl that is featured in the shot was full of subtle tints and is not a conventional shape."

Other prints on display in the exhibition, which runs until April 27, include traditional landscapes, motor cycle racing on ice, and natural history subjects.

Entered

Chairman of the club Barry Evans, aged 75, of Sedgley, has five of his shots of the RAF Cosford air show last June selected for show – four of them showing a display by the Red Arrows. His pictures have earned him the title of "best record shot".

"I used a digital camera – although there is a resurgence in enthusiast circles of using film, in spite of this forward march of modern digital models," said Mr Evans, who has been a member of the club for three years.

Mr Broadbent spoke of how lucky the club was to be in Dudley, saying: "There are photographic societies all over the country – but hardly any of them has the facilities we've got."

The club meets every Monday from September to June at 7.30pm at the Central Methodist Church, off Wolverhampton Street, Dudley. Anyone interested in joining is invited to simply turn up, or visit the website www.dudleycameraclub.co.uk

Wheelie bins will be rolled out to homes

PEOPLE living in Dudley will have their plastic rubbish sacks replaced with wheelie bins as part of a new waste collection service approved by councillors.

A total of 125,000 wheelie bins will be rolled out to residents in the borough as part of the £2.5million project, aimed at encouraging people to reduce the amount of rubbish they throw away.

Councillor Tracy Wood, cabinet member for the environment, told a recent full council meeting that the scheme would begin in May, with everyone expected to get their new bins within 18 months.

She also pledged help for those who may struggle to move their bins.

It is hoped the plan will save the council £250,000 a year.

Netball team aids charity

A NETBALL team which plays in a Dudley league raised £650 for a cancer charity in support of one of its players who is battling leukaemia.

Members of Oldbury Netball Club presented a cheque to Cure Leukaemia at its end of season ceremony at the Station Hotel, on Castle Hill. They chose the charity after team mate Tracey Dagg was diagnosed with Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia in 2009. Mrs Dagg, aged 48, of Wednesbury, received a bone marrow transplant.

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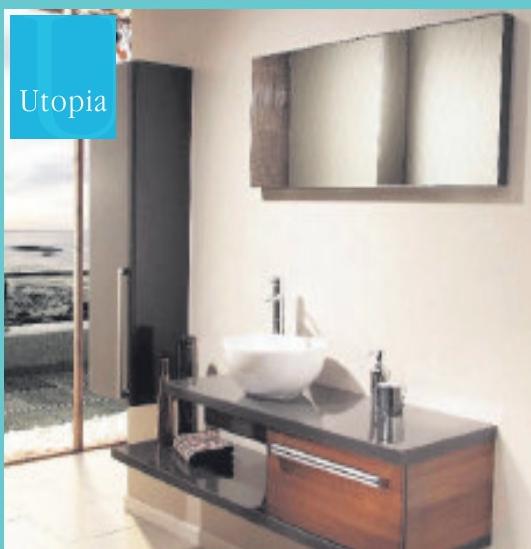
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NEWS**MP meets over meat**

WYRE Forest MP Mark Garnier has met representatives of the National Farmers' Union in Worcestershire to discuss the horse meat scandal. He has also spoken in support of the union's Red Tractor Campaign.

It ensures products carrying the red tractor label have been independently inspected to ensure the food is safe and to confirm the origin of the raw ingredients.

The scheme covers production standards, hygiene and animal welfare.

Mr Garnier said, this scandal highlights how important it is we know what we are eating.

Club gets extra boost

HOT on the heels of getting thousands of pounds to refurbish its 88-year-old cricket pavilion, Stourbridge Cricket Club has been given more money to finish the project.

Just a few weeks ago, the cricket club was awarded £42,000 to fund the restoration.

Now it has been given another £500 from The Anthony and Gwendoline Wynde Memorial Charity to put the finishing touches on the project.

Club spokesman Mark Ashbourne said: "The work includes replacing the wooden sub-floor, relaying drainage, a new umpires' changing room, new ceilings, new resin flooring and additional

toilets. The new funding will be used to provide additional storage within the changing rooms for the storage of junior practice equipment," he added.

The transformation has been going on at the War Memorial Athletic Ground on Amblecote High Street in recent months.

Stourbridge secured the £42,000 from Sport England's Places People Play Inspired Facilities Fund, the Cory Environmental Trust in Britain and Dudley Council's Stourbridge Area Committee and contributions from ADS Supply Ltd and HS Richards Ltd.

The club's ground was used regularly for first class cricket by Worcestershire between 1905 and 1962, and has also hosted two ICC Trophy matches. The club has four teams playing on Saturday and two on Sundays. In the 2011 season, Stourbridge First XI secured promotion to the Birmingham District League with a record points haul.

All-weather cricket practice nets have also been installed. Cash has also been used to buy sight screens and equipment.

Earlier this month Stourbridge MP Margot James visited the club to see how the refurbishment project was progressing.

She said: "I am looking forward to watching Stourbridge Cricket Club go from strength to strength in the coming months and years." The MP helped the club to raise money towards the refurbishment of its changing rooms and shower area.

Pair sentenced for raid bid on cannabis factory

TWO men have been handed suspended jail sentences after they were caught trying to burgle a cannabis factory near Merry Hill Shopping Centre.

Farooq Chaudhary, aged 26, and Marcus Ranger, 34, were found guilty of attempted burglary.

Dudley Magistrates' Court heard the two were part of a group of three caught at the illegal factory on Columbus Avenue, just after midnight on June 18 last year, after a neighbour raised the alarm.

Chaudhary, of Lissimore Drive, Tipton, and Ranger, of Uplands Road in Dudley, denied the offences but were found guilty on January 30.

On the same day Chaudhary was also convicted of failing to surrender to answer

police bail on September 6 and Ranger convicted of the same from September 21.

District Judge Michael Wheeler said the two still denied culpability for the crimes, adding that father-of-two Ranger was more at fault than Chaudhary, who had been called upon to provide his Mercedes as the transport.

For Chaudhary, Mr Jahangeer Aslam said he and his partner were expecting their first child next month.

Ranger was sentenced to 18 weeks in jail, suspended for 18 months.

He was also ordered to do 200 hours' unpaid work.

Chaudhary was given a 12-week term, suspended for 12 months, and must do 150 hours' community work.

Hotel workers reach competition finals

Chef Pavol Kocis and sales manager Sarah Billingham-Bassett, from Stone Manor Hotel, are both in the final of the Midlands Hotelier Awards

A HOTEL is hoping to serve up success after two of its staff reached the finals of the Midlands Hotelier Awards.

Stone Manor Hotel is celebrating after two of its team made it through to the next round of the Midlands Association of Restaurants, Caterers, Hotels and Entertainment awards for excellence.

Chef Pavol Kocis and sales manager Sarah Billingham-Bassett from the hotel at Stone Hill, near Kidderminster were entered into the awards for their respective categories.

The two were put through tests which involved role-plays, call-handling and preparing dishes from a specially-designed menu, before making it to the final round of the contest.

Miss Billingham-Bassett said: "I am really pleased to have got this far, not just for me, but for the hotel too."

"I've been to the ceremony before but never as a finalist," she added.

The awards aim to raise standards while encouraging motivation, training and team building for companies within the hospitality and leisure industries.

The final round of the competition will be held in Birmingham on March 24.

Wheelie bins will be rolled out to homes

PEOPLE living in Dudley will have their plastic rubbish sacks replaced with wheelie bins as part of a new waste collection service approved by councillors.

A total of 125,000 wheelie bins will be rolled out to residents in the borough as part of the £2.5million project, aimed at encouraging people to reduce the amount of rubbish they throw away.

Councillor Tracy Wood, cabinet member for the environment, told a recent full council meeting that the scheme would begin in May, with everyone expected to get their new bins within 18 months.

She also pledged help for those who may struggle to move their bins. It is hoped the plan will save the council £250,000 a year.

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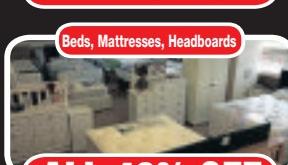
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Day 2: Full day out, we head west, cross the river Tamar into Cornwall to visit two beautiful coastal villages, Polperro & Looe.

Day 3: After breakfast, a morning trip along the coast to the fishing port of Brixham, watch the fishing boats and explore the variety of unique shops all located around the harbour side and the town centre. We return to Paignton early afternoon so you have the chance to spend some time in your resort.

Day 4: After a last breakfast we leave for home.

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Queens Hotel, Paignton

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Price includes: 3 nights dinner, bed & breakfast plus coach & trips out. SS £15

Coach departs: Friday 5th April £133

Lake District

4 Day Coach Trip £184

Enjoy the Beautiful scenery of the Lake District as seen from coach, train and boat



Look what's included...

Day 1: Coach this morning as we travel north towards Cumbria and arrive at our hotel in the Shap Fells mid-afternoon.

Day 2: Breakfast then a tour around the Lake District National Park stopping at towns including Grasmere, Ambleside, Hawkshead and Coniston.

Day 3: Breakfast, then we go to Haverthwaite railway station and board a train (usually steam, sometimes diesel) for a journey through the Leven Valley to Lakeside. After a time, we board a boat for a 40 minute cruise on Lake Windermere to Bowness. Free time in Bowness for lunch. Later we go to Lakeland motor museum in its new, purpose-built venue, there's an array of cars plus the Campbell Bluebird exhibition.

Day 4: After a last, breakfast - it's time to go home.

Shap Wells Hotel ★★★

A good, 3 star standard hotel with bar, restaurant, 37 guest rooms with full facilities. Lift. Situated in the Cumbrian fells in a secluded, wooded valley, high in the Shap Fells and surrounded by mountain streams and beautiful countryside.

Price includes: 3 nights dinner, bed & breakfast plus trips out. SS £15

Coach departs: Friday 29th March £184

Llangollen

A Special Day Trip £46

A coach trip to the market town of Llangollen with a 2 hour cruise through the Dee valley & over the spectacular Pontcysyllte aqueduct.



Price includes: coach, boat trip plus lunch.

Coach departs: Thursday 2nd May £46

Warners Corton Village

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Wednesday: A trip to Wroxham and a cruise on the Norfolk Broads.

Thursday: A big part of your holiday is Corton itself so we've left today free for you to relax and enjoy the facilities.

Friday: One last breakfast before we leave.

Corton Village, Suffolk

A delightful holiday village with stunning views, landscaped grounds and facilities including: crown green bowls, putting green, boules court, indoor pool, steam room, Sauna.

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Day 1: Arrive at the hotel late afternoon, before dinner this evening.

Day 2: After breakfast, a trip to Truro - a small, bustling city that's easy to get around, with lots of character and interesting things to see.

Day 3: We take the coast road from Newquay past Watergate Bay to the fishing village of Padstow and later, Tintagel.

Day 4: Today is left free so you can explore Newquay at your own pace.

Day 5: After a last, breakfast we leave for home.

Esplanade Newquay ★★★

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Price includes: 4 nights dinner, bed & breakfast plus travel & trips out. SS £20

Coach departs: Monday 15th April £219

Coach in the morning as we go to Llangollen. When we arrive we'll board the 'Thomas Telford' a modern motor cruise boat. A purpose built narrowboat with comfortable seats and excellent views from every table. There also a fully stocked bar and toilets. We set off on a two hour trip of peaceful cruising along the stunning Dee Valley. Your skipper will keep you well informed and entertained as he gives you a live commentary. A nice home made lunch with tea or coffee is served on board.

The trip finishes on a high - literally! As the boat crosses the spectacular Pontcysyllte Aqueduct 126ft above the Dee Valley floor. After the cruise, there's time to explore charming Llangollen itself before we head for home.

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NEWS

Plans for £2.6m revamp at park are submitted

A £2.6 MILLION revamp of a park used by thousands from across the region has moved a step closer after plans for the project were lodged by council bosses.

The scheme at Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Park includes creating a new cafe and restoring the bandstand.

Improvements would also be made to the Heath Pool, to include a viewing platform, and the war memorial.

Sports facilities including the tennis courts and bowling green will also be refurbished under the plans drawn up by Dudley Council. Bosses are bidding for cash from the Heritage Lottery Fund to cover the cost.

A second round application is due to be submitted in the coming weeks. They have already been awarded an initial grant of £116,000 to develop the proposals.

As part of the work, the main Grade II listed gates will be restored. Residents and councillors have long campaigned for them to be spruced up because the brick and iron-work has been showing signs of decay.

Other work includes encouraging greater use of the formal terrace and Tea Gardens as well as woodland in the east of the park.

A "graffiti shelter" for teenagers will also be restored. It provides a display area for "the creative production" of graffiti within the park. New footpaths would also be created.

Councillor Tracy Wood said: "Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge is one of the most well-used parks in the borough."

Hedge volunteers wanted

VOLUNTEERS are wanted to join in a day of hedge planting at an organic farm in Kinver. The community event, organised by the Transition Stourbridge group will be held at Vale Head Farm, Compton Road, on March 10, starting at 10am. Anyone joining in is asked to bring wellies, suitable clothing, a spade if they have one and something to share for lunch. More information call 01384 351414.



The war memorial in Mary Stevens Park in line for improvements



Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge - a £2.6m plan has been submitted

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History of canal tunnels talk to help raise funding

THE history of the Dudley Canal Tunnel and 200-year-old limestone mines will be explored during a fundraising talk this month.

Dudley Canal Trust has helped develop the site into a leading attraction with plans under way for a £3.3m visitors' centre.

Chairman of the Dudley Canal Trust, Vic Smallshire, who founded the organisation 50 years ago, will lead the talk on March 7.

It will delve deeper into work done by the trust which welcomes around 80,000 visitors a year to the attraction on Birmingham New Road, Dudley.

The talk will be held at the Church Hall, in Vicarage Drive, off Kinver High Street, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £7 with

proceeds going to Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge. They are available either from the Hospice shop in Kinver High Street, online from the Hospice website, from organiser Sylvain Sidaway on 01384 877680 or on the door.

Officials are waiting to hear if they have been successful in securing lottery and European funding to build the heritage and learning centre.

The trust is working alongside Dudley Council which is planning a major redevelopment of the Castle Hill area neighbouring the tunnel. This would better link Dudley Canal Trust with the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Zoo to create a tourism destination.

Come dine reunion bid



DUDLEY contestants who fought it out in the kitchen on television show **Come Dine With Me** are hoping to hold a reunion.

After a hard-fought week of culinary triumphs and disasters, the five hosts are looking to meet up again.

Vicky Pichon, the self-proclaimed Duchess of Dudley, and banker Mandeep Rajput were named joint winners of the show.

Both scored 28 out of 40, beating fellow Dudley residents Adam, Sarah and Di, on the TV show where contestants judge each other's skills as a host and cook.

Grandmother-of-three Vicky, who runs Vicky's Dog Grooming Parlour and Pet Shop in Quarry Bank High Street, said afterwards: "It wouldn't have bothered me if I hadn't won, if I'm honest. I've met some

lovely people and had a fantastic dining experience." Co-winner Mandeep Rajput, who will share the £1,000 prize with Vicky, was the first to host the others with a night featuring Indian cuisine and saucy bhangra dancing. The 38-year-old, a business development manager from Oldbury, said: "When I found out I'd won it was great news but I should have won clear, I think."

"If I'd had to share I would have chosen to share with Vicky but everybody said that, by far my night came across as the best."

Mandeep said he was trying to organise a reunion of the five contestants. He said: "We all had a right laugh and I got on with everybody."

The episodes were most notable, however, for the conflict between former Kingswinford School pupil Adam Reece, aged 26, and Sedgley spoon-playing pensioner and third place Di Dawson, aged 65.

Author does card design

A TOP author has designed a new library card for children in the Wyre Forest district and elsewhere in Worcestershire.

Children aged up to 12 will soon be able to get their hands on the card, designed by Liz Pichon, from libraries across the county after it is launched on World Book Day on March 7.

One of the UK's rising stars in children's literature, Pichon was the winner at the 2012 National Book Award.

Author of the popular Tom Gates series, she has included characters from the books in her design.

Bronte classic is to be staged at centre



Jane Williams, who plays the eponymous heroine Jane Eyre, with Gareth May who will play Mr Rochester

A THEATRE company will be bringing classic novel Jane Eyre to life in a stage production this week.

Dudley Little Theatre will stage the Charlotte Bronte novel in a production, which has been adapted for the stage by Willis Hall, at Netherton Arts Centre.

Mrs Chris Ridgeway, publicity officer at the theatre company, said: "The production is brought to the stage in a way for the audience to see the different stages in the progress of the story. It should be a really interesting production."

"It goes from when she is first at home in the house where she is taken as an orphan and treated very badly and then sent off to a very harsh boarding school to where eventually she becomes a governess and goes to the home of Mr Rochester. It is really a story for all time and is about love conquering adversity."

The production runs from March 6 to 9 at 7.30pm. The arts centre is located on Northfield Road, Netherton.

Tickets are £7, with concessions at £6 and a discount of 10 per cent off sales of 10 or more tickets. They are available from the Dudley Council Plus shop by calling 01384 812812, from Chris Ridgeway on 01384 872583 or 07582 318017, or Specs Maniacs of Halesowen.

Run organisers give charity £4,000 boost

ORGANISERS of a fun run in a West Midland village have presented a cheque for more than £4,000 to a heart health charity.

The Kinver 10k Road Race and 2k family fun run raised £4,275, bringing the total to more than £20,000 in the past six years. Almost 300 runners took part in the race last October in the surrounding roads around the South Staffordshire village.

Cash from the event has been donated to the Dudley charity Action Heart based at Russells Hall Hospital.

Race organiser, rotarian John Pittwood, said the final total was magnificent and thanked all who had paid the cash to support the runners. Overheads for the event had been previously met through financial support from BodyKraft of Pensnett, Safeline Environmental of Hartlebury and the Dudley Motor Company. Action Heart spokeswoman Joy Brown said: "I would like to thank members of Kinver Rotary for organising another successful 10k race."

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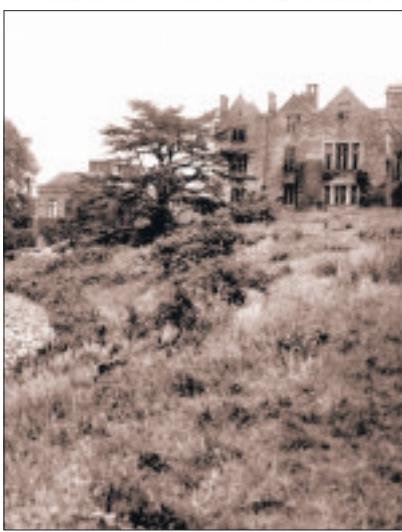
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MEMORY LANE

Standing proud – Beaudesert Hall, for many years the seat of the Marquis of Anglesey, before its demolition



This picture shows the stunning long gallery, complete with fabulous fittings, at the historic Beaudesert Hall



A rear view of Beaudesert Hall, home to the Pagets

Historic hall's staircase built to accommodate wooden leg

BETWEEN the Wars, Beaudesert Hall, the seat of the Marquis of Anglesey and home to the Pagets since Henry VIII hit hard times.

A spendthrift Marquis, death duties and diminishing income from estates had caused the Pagets to retreat to their Anglesey home, Plas Newydd. The once proud hall started to decay. No buyer came forward and eventually the interior fittings were put under auction. The hall stood empty until a fire made it unsafe and it was mainly demolished leaving just a few walls standing.

An Australian couple on honeymoon were having a mansion built on ground given as a wedding present and they bought a large proportion of the fit-

by Ron Bradbury

tings and windows from the hall and had them shipped back to their home town of Adelaide.

The fittings included the famous Waterloo Staircase, which had been specially designed so the newly created Marquis of Anglesey could negotiate the stairs with his wooden leg.

Paget, then the Earl of Uxbridge, was second in command at Waterloo, and had his leg sawn off after it being severely wounded. He is reputed to be the first person to have a wooden leg with a knee joint and was able to dance as well as he had before he lost his limb.

The aerial photo shows the Adelaide mansion, known as Carrick Hill, one of the few period homes in Australia to survive with its original contents almost completely intact and one of

only a handful of such places open to the public in the country.

The others show Beaudesert Hall before demolition and the long gallery with some fine fittings.

My local photo book, now out of print and showing some photos of Beaudesert Hall was presented to the Carrick Hill House Trust by my friend John Ashley on a visit.

Atmospheric

The Burntwood Chase Heritage Group Nostalgia Night is on Tuesday, February 5 when the atmospheric film 'Turn of the Tide' will be screened. It was the first film that J Arthur Rank financed and was in fact his favourite.

The venue is St Johns Church, High Street, Chase Terrace at 7.30pm. This film is being shown by request and has not been seen for several years.



Aerial shot of Carrick Hill period home in Australia

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	E & J Gallo Assorted 75cl 2 for £8.00		Hardys Private Bin Shiraz, Hardys Bin 53 Shiraz Chard Bin 343 Cab Shiraz 75cl 2 for £8		Turner Road Reserve Merlot 75cl 2 for £8.00		Echo Falls (Varieties) Chard, Cab Sauv, Merlot, Pinot Grigio, Pinot Grigio Blush 75cl 3 for £11.00		Echo Falls Red, White & Rose 75cl 3 for £10.00		Blossom Hill Red, White & Rose 75cl 3 for £10.00		
	Blossom Hill Cab Sauv, Sauv Blanc, French Rose 75cl 2 for £8.00		Kumala (Varieties) 75cl 2 for £8.00		Casillero Del Diablo, Sauv Blanc 2 for £10.00		Holsten Pils, Kronenbourg, Carlsberg Export 500ml 8 Cans £7.00 24 Cans £19.99		Carling & Fosters 500ml 8 cans £6.00		Boddington Draught 8 Cans £6.00 24 Cans £17.49		
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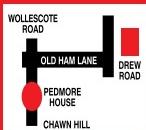
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GAIL 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes nights out, seeks N/S male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402041

Jeanette 35, blonde beauty likes nights out, seeking active nice person who really cares about people. WLTM someone genuine and honest to fall in love with. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402655

LISA 30's tall slim beauty looking for discreet dining partner to romance, pamper and appreciate me in return for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402645

JACKIE busty blonde, husband away seeks no strings fun. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 400453

ATTRACTIVE curly Jamaican female 37 who loves to party, cook/bake and have fun, looking for no strings added companionship only with white male, any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393423

MARINA lonely heart, fun good looking single mum with GSOH seeks gentle considerate male to try and get to know better, dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393329

ALISON slim pretty lonely divorcee looking for caring supportive man who enjoys life and is looking to share my life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402702

FIRST timer! Annette, passionate, loves cooking, life in general, rock music, WLTM mature male for friendship, togetherness, etc, hopefully lr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400199

LIZZIE 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400949

JANINE petite cute female who loves meals in/out, romantic strolls, WLTM interesting appreciative, independent man for lr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400803

JULIE 30's female looking for some much needed lr with similar laidback male. Likes nights in/out, socialising, romance etc, call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400487

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106

KATHY 38yrs, knows what she wants out of life, with similar genuine male to wine/dine enjoy travel, share ambitions and hopefully fall in love with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400793

MAUREEN seeks male 32-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 323543

MONICA 35, very attractive, gorgeous curvy figure, WLTM nice male who wants to get to know a genuine black beauty to wine, dine, romance hopefully leading to more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401833

JULIE cute blonde blue eyed flirty female 31, looking for laidback dates and fun times with older confident male, 40-65yrs with GSoh, Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401833

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CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883

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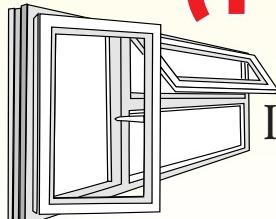
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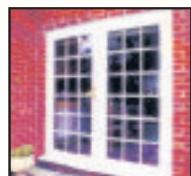
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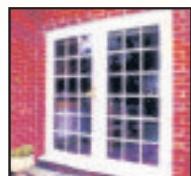
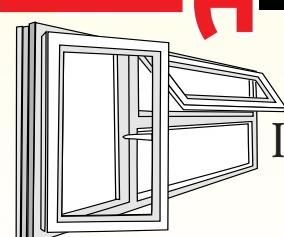
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NEWS

Addict chased his father with axe in family feud

A DRUG addict chased his father with an axe after first embedding the weapon in his car windshield.

Christopher Smart had only been arrested days earlier for throwing a concrete block through the window of his mother's vehicle.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how Smart's mother heard a loud noise and when she went to investigate she saw a large lump of concrete had been put through her car. The court was told how the defendant had drug issues and become estranged from his parents which sparked the feud.

After carrying out the act on his mother's car on September 23 last year, Smart of Hungerford Road, Stourbridge, was arrested, admitted the crime and was bailed.

When his father went to check on the property in Hungerford Road, three days later, he saw his 23-year-old son wielding a six-inch knife and an axe embedded in the windshield of his car.

The court heard Smart began shouting "you're going to get it now."

He then dropped the knife, grabbed the axe and continued to chase his father before throwing it at him. Miss Kate Thomas, defending, said: "I have had a long and heartfelt conference with Mr Smart's family who intend to support him."

Smart was given a 12-month community order and is required to carry out six months of rehab and 12 months of supervision. He is also required to take a behaviour programme.

History group meeting

WOODSIDE Memory & History Group has its first meeting of the year on Monday March 18 at 7pm.

Chairman Len Hughes said the subject of the meeting would be based on Blockley Dudley Almanac for 1945 detailing 'The Epitome of Local Events'.

Mr Hughes said the meeting would be held at the Woodside Community Centre, attached to Woodside Primary School.

Baking brings Brendan



Great British Bake Off finalist Brendan Lynch with Pauline Vaughan who won the baking contest at Kiddicare, Merry Hill Shopping Centre

CREATIVE bakers had their work judged by Brendan Lynch, a finalist in the latest series of the hit TV show the Great British Bake Off.

The Mummy Mornings' group, which meets at the Kiddicare baby and children's store at Dudley's Merry Hill shopping centre, made cakes for a taste test to celebrate the group's 5th anniversary.

Winner was Pauline Vaughan, aged 39, with a Red Velvet cake made famous by New York's five-star Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

The three-layer cake is made of cocoa and vanilla sponge mixed with red food dye and topped with cream cheese icing. "We are quite a foody family and I really like baking, not cooking so much," said Pauline, of Fatherless Barn Crescent, Halesowen. She received a £50 gift card.

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*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.
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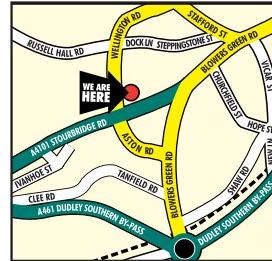
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THE WAY I SEE IT

Open day that focused on problem of being homeless

I WAS pleased to attend the Homeless Link charity's open day in Parliament where I learned more about the StreetLink initiative.

If you're concerned about someone sleeping rough get in touch so that StreetLink can help connect them to local services. Just log onto www.streetlink.org.uk or call 0300 500 0914.

Also I was pleased to give Hazel and Steve Pepper of Kingswinford a tour of Parliament. It's always nice when constituents take the time to come and visit me in Westminster.

I enjoyed a visit to Hillcrest School and Community College in Netherton where headteacher April Garratt showed me the new extension to the main building and also briefed me on plans to convert to co-operative foundation trust status.

Bodywork

On a visit to FibreOn Laminate Panels Limited on Dadsford Bridge Industrial Estate I met with husband and wife team Julian and Nicolette Arnold who run one of the UK's leading TVR bodywork specialists. The company also specialise in moulding fibreglass for a range of applications. It was great to see another small business thriving in our area.

I enjoyed visiting Brierley Hill Community Fire Station where station commander, Simon Barry, introduced me to his team and showed me the station's equipment.

Dudley South Conservative MP Chris Kelly takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views



Kingswinford), is donating to the Champions Church in Netherton's community action team.

The firefighters and I had quite a wide-ranging, roundtable discussion covering a lot of ground including public expenditure and spending priorities.

Next I visited Lions Boxing Club on Bull Street in Brierley Hill where I met Julie and Kevin Dillon who run the club.

Lions, which has charitable status, is a great asset to our community and is celebrating its twentieth anniversary this year with a new website — www.lion-samateurboxingclub.wordpress.com — where you can find full details of training and fitness sessions for all age groups.

Why not get involved and try something new?

I have been speaking to Pastor Mark Burchell to sort out the van that Keltruck, my family business (which has a depot in

King's Lynn), is donating to the Champions Church in Netherton's community action team.

I'm really pleased that the business has been able to help the community in this way.

Last week HM The Queen granted her Royal Assent for the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013.

Delighted

After two years of campaigning under the auspices of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Combating Metal Theft, which I founded and co-chair, I am delighted that; a) it is now illegal to accept cash payment for metal, and b) the metal recycling industry will be properly regulated and inspected.

Staying with Home Affairs, since May 2010 Conservatives have been working hard to bring immigration under control.

We are reforming all the different routes of entry into the UK and the num-

bers are coming down as a result.

Last week we received news of how our reforms to ensure the immigration system works in the national interest are taking effect.

Encouraging figures just published by the Office for National Statistics revealed that: Net immigration is down by almost a third since the general election — net immigration into the UK in the year ending June 2012 was 163,000, compared to 235,000 in June 2010 (the figures released just after the general election).

Visa numbers show that this trend is set to continue — the number of visas issued last year also went down, indicating that the downward trend of net immigration is set to continue.

Sponsored student visas for UK universities have increased by three per cent — showing that whilst we are ending the widespread abuse of student visas, we are still ensuring that our world-class universities can compete for overseas students.

These figures show that we're cutting out abuse and making our immigration system much more robust.

We are putting a stop to the uncontrolled immigration we saw under the last Labour government and creating an immigration system which truly works in our national interest.

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CLUB NEWS

Learning about life
on canals

QUARRY BANK E TWG

CHAIRMAN Mrs V Wright opened this, the first meeting of 2013 by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. Normal business followed with the reading and signing of minutes of our last meeting and the treasurer's report.

Mrs Wright informed us of the success of last year's charity events, the money raised having been sent to our chosen charity, Mary Stevens Hospice.

Mrs V Raybould gave information from her attending at the federation meeting.

The annual lunch is again at The Mill Hotel and will be on July 29.

Orders for 2014 TG dices must be in by March 19. Social secretary Mrs M Writtle said the birthday lunch would be at The Mill Hotel on March 26. A list was sent round on which to record menu preferences. A craft exhibition at the Ruskin Centre was also mentioned.

The speaker for the evening was Tina Gittins, who drew attention to the fact that the canals were so important in bringing prosperity both to the Black Country and other industrial areas because of the quick efficient transport of materials and manufactured goods, so slow and laborious previously by horse and wagon.

She also dwelt on the lives of women working alongside the men on the canal barges and at the same time bringing up their children in such tiny cramped cabins.

Coffee and a chat helps out charities



Jon Newman, from Macmillan Cancer Support, and Sylvia McCarty and Mildred Weir, from Cruse Bereavement Care, standing, accept their cheques from chairman Helen Roberts, seated, and incoming chairman Sarah James, standing centre

WULFRUNA LADIES' COFFEE CLUB

HOT drinks and chat at a series of regular coffee mornings in Wolverhampton have helped to raise a total of £3,000 for two charities.

The Wulfruna Ladies' Coffee Club has been meeting at members' homes in the city since the 1960s.

Over the past two years the ladies involved with the group have been fundraising for two worthy causes, Macmillan Cancer Support and the Wolverhampton and Dudley branch of Cruse Bereavement Care. Each charity will receive £1,500, which has been raised through bring-and-

buy sales and raffles, as well as charging members £1 for their drinks.

Other organisations they have raised cash for include Compton Hospice and the eye infirmary. The group has announced its next fundraiser will be for the MS Therapy Centre in the city.

Club secretary Rosemary Moss, who has been attending the group since the mid 1970s, said: "It is incredible when you think it has all been raised thanks to having a cup of coffee."

A minute's silence for Meg

WOLLASTON E TWG

CHAIRMAN Jean Latham welcomed 55 members, including nine newcomers, to the February meeting.

A minute's silence was observed for Meg McGuinness, a founder member and the chairwoman between 1974 and 1977.

In the absence of secretary Sue Ward, the minutes of the last meeting were read by Jill Dunn. A thank you letter had been received from the Acorns Children's

recovery. Hazel Butt read an extensive account of the last meeting. Sub section leaders then gave their reports.

The speaker, Ian Bott, gave an informative and interesting talk on local churches and cemeteries.

The competition winners were Elizabeth Grove and Anna Price. Raffle prizes went to Brenda Adkins and Sandra Oliver.

The annual general meeting will be on March 12.

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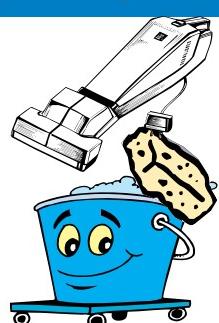
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What's On! Dudley

Folk sound of the Fureys in concert

Irish folk music legends - The Fureys and Davy Arthur will be appearing for a special St Patrick's weekend concert on Saturday March 16 at Dudley Town Hall.

Renowned for their hits When You Were Sweet 16, The Green fields of France, Red Rose Café, From Clare to here and many more, The Fureys have been entertaining audiences worldwide for 35 years.

Their fans include former Irish President Mary McAleese.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets are £20.00

Dudley's darker side on display

COFFINS and cholera, monks and murder, riots, plagues, preachers, pickpockets and prostitutes are will be on show in a celebration of the darker side of Dudley.

They will all be around in a tour that will throw up some of the odd characters from Dudley's past.

Due to the content of some stories, it is not recommended for anyone under 16.

The tour will start at the Court Public House, New Street on Sunday March 24 at 7pm. Tickets are £7.00.

Ken's happiness

KEN Dodd's Happiness Show is coming to Dudley Town Hall this weekend. The marathon show on Saturday March 9 starts at 7pm. Tickets are £20.00 and £18.00

Phantom to haunt theatre with his music of the night

THE PHANTOM of the Opera arrives at Birmingham Hippodrome on Wednesday for an eight-week season, the final venue on the much-loved show's 25th anniversary tour.

Cameron Mackintosh's spectacular touring version marks a quarter century since Andrew Lloyd Webber's blockbuster musical first opened in London's theatreland, where it still runs at Her Majesty's Theatre.

One of the most popular West End phantoms, Earl Carpenter, will don the mask as the eerie figure who controls the career of soprano Christine, played by Katie Hall, from behind the scenes... and murdering anyone at the Paris

Opera who gets in the way of his ambitions for her.

The musical is known for its stunning set-pieces, including the Masquerade costume ball, the Phantom's subterranean lair and a certain something involving a chandelier.

Angel

The songs have become some of the most popular in musical theatre, including The Music of the Night, Think of Me and All I Ask Of You.

Tickets to see the Phantom's doomed love affair with his 'Angel of Music' have been in such demand that the Hippodrome has put on extra matinee performances.

For the latest news on tickets see the theatre's website or call 0844 338 5000.



Earl Carpenter is to portray The Phantom of the Opera
Picture by Alistair Muir

Again, again, never again for Quo



Still rockin' – Rick Parfitt and Francis Rossi of Status Quo seen in action last year

THE Status Quo gigs at Wolverhampton Civic Hall tonight (Thursday) and on March 13 mark the only opportunities to catch the return of the original line-up.

Quo guitar stalwarts Francis Rossi and Rick Parfitt will be joined by Alan Lancaster and John Coghlan for a one-off set of reunion dates. These include two gigs at Wolverhampton after the March 13 concert sold out in minutes, prompting tonight's extra date.

History

Status Quo manager Simon Porter said: "This is a real moment in the chequered history of Status Quo and it comes after 30 years of acrimony and ten years of law suits and court battles. Just two years ago the thought of the Frantic Four performing again was unthinkable. Now, 50 years on from when Francis and Alan first performed together as schoolboys, it is fitting that everything has come full circle."

Tonight's gig at the Civic is also set to sell out the venue.

Unmythable time at the Town Hall

LEGENDARY Greek heroes are all set to take you on a journey of a lifetime.

The greatest myths from Jason and the Argonauts to the Odyssey and the man with the original golden touch King Midas are packed into just one hour.

Whether you're new to Greek myths or a diehard fan, come onboard for Unmythable, the award-winning theatre, storytelling and songs.

Stourbridge Town Hall will be scene of epic fights and fantastical flights in an adventure which has something for everyone.

The show starts at 1.30pm on Friday March 15. Tickets are £7.00.

School parties will be in attendance at the show.

Bronte's story of devotion and love

CHARLOTTE Bronte's classic Jane Eyre will be performed by Dudley Little Theatre until Saturday March 9.

The story is of the love of a plain but passionate girl for the embittered and lonely Mr Rochester.

The performances will be at the Netherton Arts Centre at 7.30pm and tickets are £7 for adults and £6 concession.

Sketchbook show

THE Fox Sketchbook is an exhibition by Dudley Museum and Art Gallery of recently gained works, from local artist Ernest Fox which are on show until March 9, entry is free.



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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 9.03.13

CHOICE



Jonathan Ross

The Jonathan Ross Show ITV, 9.20pm

In 1978, Grease became one of the best-loved musicals of all time; it spawned three number ones for Olivia Newton-John, and helped breathe new life into her career. Despite subsequent film vehicles Xanadu, and Two of a Kind failing to recapture the same magic, her 1981 album Physical became a soundtrack for the "Jane Fonda Workout" generation. Recently a new wave of fans have become devoted to her, thanks to appearances on Glee and the ongoing appeal of Grease. This week, Olivia drops into the studio to plug her UK tour.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **11.30** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigella Slater's Simple Cooking. (R) **12.00** BBC News. **12.00** Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. **4.25** BBC News. Regional News. Weather. **4.35** Live Nine Nations Rugby Union.

7.00 Let's Dance for Comic Relief. Alex Jones and Steve Jones present the funniest contestants - including Tim Vine, The Soap Stars, Antony Cotton and Katherine Ryan - take to the floor one last time. Last in the series.

8.25 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton presents the quiz in which five contestants compete for wits to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the National Lottery draws, presented by Jenni Falconer.

9.15 Casualty. Ash and Zoe struggle to make a teenage boy accept the severity of his father's condition, while Linda has a pregnant woman cope with her now-good boyfriend.

10.05 BBC News: Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day. Highlights of the latest matches in the Premier League, including Reading v Aston Villa at the Madejski Stadium and Queens Park Rangers v Sunderland. (Road: National Lottery: Upfront)

11.25 The Football League Show. Highlights and all the goals from today's fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Crystal Palace v Leeds United at Selhurst Park.

12.35 Film: Color of Night. (1994) Thriller, starring Bruce Willis. **2.30** Weatherview. **2.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **7.30** Great British Menu. **8.30** Great British Menu. (R) **9.00** Great British Menu. (R) **9.30** Great British Menu. (R) **10.00** A History of Britain by Simon Schama. (R) **11.00** Meet the Ancestors. (R) **11.30** The Sky at Night. (R) **11.50** Coast. **12.00** Indian Food Made Easy. (R) **12.30** MasterChef: The University Challenge. (R) **1.30** Talking Pictures. **2.20** Film: The Man from Laramie. (1955) Western, starring James Stewart. **4.00** Coast. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.30** Flog It!

6.30 Your Paintings: A Culture Show Special. Alastair Sooke and his guests explore a website showcasing all publicly owned oil paintings held in collections across the United Kingdom.

7.30 Top Gear Africa Special – Part One. Part one of two. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May visit Africa on a mission to find the definitive source of the Nile using grit, ingenuity and ageing estate cars. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. An exercise with the regular army goes well, until Mainwaring assumes the role of an emergency. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and Clive Dunn. (R)

9.00 Film: Made in Dagenham. (2010) Premiere. Fact-based comedy drama, starring Sally Hawkins and Miranda Richardson.

10.20 Ford's Dagenham Dream. The changing fortunes of the car manufacturer. (R)

11.50 Film: Bat'21. (1988) Drama, starring Gene Hackman.

1.30 This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** Jump Boys: Channel 4 Racing. **7.00** Dino Dan. (R) **7.30** Animal Ark. (R) **7.45** Bookaboo. **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **8.05** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Victorious. **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** My Task. Travel Channel. **11.25** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **12.10** ITV News: Weather. **12.15** Live FA Cup Football. **3.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R) **4.00** Midsummer Murders. (R)

6.00 Regional Programme: Weather.

6.15 ITV News: Weather.

6.30 You've Been Framed! Motorcycle mayhem, garden-based gaffes and swimming pool traps. (R)

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. Little Ant and Dec interview Justin Bieber.

8.20 The Cube. A personal trainer and an occupational therapist try to complete a series of increasingly difficult tasks in the hope of winning a jackpot of £250,000. Phillip Schofield hosts.

9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. With Keith Lemon, Olivia Newton-John and Nicole Scherzinger.

10.20 ITV News: Weather.

10.35 FA Cup Football Highlights.

Action from the first two sixth-round ties.

11.35 Celebrity Who Wants To Be a Millionaire? – Mother's Day Special. With David Williams, Olly Murs and Patsy Palmer. (R)

12.45 Jackpot247. Interactive gaming. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Sali Malli. (R) **6.20** The Treacle People. (R) **6.35** The Grid. **7.00** Jump Boys: Channel 4 Racing. **7.30** Dino Dan. (R) **7.45** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.55** Frasier. (R) **10.50** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **12.20** The Simpsons. (R) **12.45** Undercover Boss USA. (R) **1.45** Coronation Street. **4.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Susan Rogers hosts the final evening in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

6.55 4thought.tv. A member of the public talks about atheist "churches".

7.00 The Queen's Hidden Treasures. Two pieces of the Queen Mother who were born with learning difficulties. (R)

8.00 Kevin McCloud's Man Made Home. An experiment where dog excrement is used to create methane. (R)

9.00 Film: Skyline. (2010) Premiere. A couple try to escape when alien spacecraft descend from the sky, messages of capturing the humans below. Sci-fi thriller, with Eric Balfour and Scottie Thompson.

10.50 Film: The Hole. (2001) Thriller, with Thora Birch and Keira Knightley.

12.50 Ricky Gervais: Science. (R) **1.45** Hollyoaks. **3.50** What's Fufu? (R) **3.55** Deal or No Deal. (R) **4.50** Countdown. (R) **5.35** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **5.45** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.45** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. (R) **11.15** Blue Peter. (R) **11.45** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **12.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.15** Film: Carnal Innocence. (2011) **3.05** Film: Columbo: A Trace of Murder. (1979) **4.55** Film: Yanks. (1979) **7.15** 5 News Weekend.

7.20 CSI: NY. A model is found apparently electrocuted in a giant Martini glass high above New York, and a robbery-homicide at a restaurant turns into a full-blown hostage crisis. (R)

8.10 NCIS. The team heads into the desert to locate an artist who might be able to help solve the murder of a fellow agent, and DiNozzo learns he is in line for an inheritance. (R)

9.10 NCIS. Vance insists on taking the investigation into the fatal shooting of a boxer—but finds his past coming under scrutiny as the case unfolds. (R)

10.05 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A couple are found murdered in a truck, prompting the detectives to investigate a Mexican drug cartel linked to the two victims—but the case proves more complex than expected.

11.00 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. A murder is linked to a psychological study.

11.55 Inside Hollywood. Magazine show. (R)

12.05 SuperCasino. (R) **4.00** HouseBusters. (R) **4.25** Divine Designs. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Merlin 7.45 Doctor Who **8.35** Film: The Sorcerer's Apprentice (2010) **10.15** Bluestone 42 **10.45** World's Craziest Foods **11.15** Family Guy

BBC Four

7.00 Britain's Natural World – A Highland Haven **8.00** Carved with Love: The Genius of British Woodwork **9.00** Spiral 4: State of Terror **10.50** Blonde: One Way or Another

ITV2

3.35 You've Been Framed! **6.10** Film: Beethoven (1991) **7.55** Film: Ocean's Thirteen (2007) **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.10** Film: Love Actually (2003)

ITV3

3.55 Film: The Magnificent Two (1962) **5.50** Film: Martha Christie's Legend **6.00** Lewis: A Man is Found Dead in the Bodleian Library Basement

9.00 Foyle's War **11.05** Film: Dead Calm (1989)

ITV4

3.00 Tartan Triumphs **4.00** Amazing Argentina **5.00** Film: Destry (1954) **7.00** TT Legends **7.30** GT Academy

8.00 River Monsters: Killer Sharks and Rays **9.00** Film: Kill the Conqueror (1997) **11.00** Film: Enter the Dragon (1973)

ITV5

3.35 Rules of Engagement **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Happy Endings **8.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** 2 Broke Girls **9.00** Film: Date Movie (2006) **10.40** Ricky Gervais: Science **11.45** The Big Bang Theory

ITV4

2.35 Swiss Family Robinson (1960) **5.10** The Last Mimzy (2007)

7.00 Turner & Hooch (1989)

9.00 Hitman (2007) **10.50** Eli Roth on Horror **10.55** The Last Exorcism (2010)

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29th - 3 May TORQUAY £249.50

MAY
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What's On!

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SUNDAY'S TV 10.03.13**CHOICE****Douglas Henshall****BBC1**

- 6.00 Breakfast.** 7.55 Match of the Day. (R) 8.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.25 Countryfile. (R) 1.20 Call the Midwife. (R) 2.20 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. 5.00 Escape to the Country. (R) 5.30 Songs of Praise.
- 6.05 Deadly 60 on a Mission.** Komodo dragons, Bengal tigers and Egyptian vultures in Action. (R)
- 6.35 BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.
- 7.00 Countryfile: A Royal Appointment.** The team visits Prince Charles's Gloucestershire estate for a special edition in which his royal highness talks about his passion for organic food, countryside and love of organic farming. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
- 8.00 Call the Midwife.** Chummy and Peter prepare for the arrival of their baby and Jenny's love life is looking up – but then the future of the convent comes under threat. Last in the series.
- 9.00 Shetland.** A woman's shooting in the Shetlands leads the police to investigate a long-standing feud between two families. Two-part murder mystery, starring Douglas Henshall.
- 10.00 BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.
- 10.25 Match of the Day 2.** Highlights of the day's Premier League contests.
- 11.25 Regional Programme.**
- 11.55 The Apprentice USA.** The team help to promote a new perfume.
- 12.40** The Apprentice USA. 1.25 Weatherview. 1.30 BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.00 This Is BBC Two.** 6.50 Film: The Las Vegas Story. (1992) 8.15 Life in a Copper Garden with Carol Klein. (R) 8.45 Gardeners' World. (R) 9.15 The A to Z of TV. Gardening. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.30 The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo. (R) 12.00 EastEnders. (R) 2.15 Coast. 3.00 Sea City. (R) 3.30 Sea City. (R) 4.00 Sea City. (R) 4.30 Reservation Home. (R) 5.30 Flog It! 6.30 Food & Drink. A discussion on Italian food with guest Angela Hartnett. (R)
- 7.00 Dragons' Den.** An ex-boxer's pitching style proves to be a big hit, a chip-shop owner showers the panel in confetti and three friends from north London demonstrate their miming skills. (R)
- 8.00 Top Gear Africa Special – Part Two.** Part two of two. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May conclude their quest to find the source of the River Nile in Africa using three old estate cars. Last in the series.
- 9.00 Toughest Place to Be a Taxi Driver.** New series. A London cabby tests his skills on the streets of Nairobi.
- 10.00 Match the Waste Looks Back at Animals.** A selection from the show's archives on the theme of animals.
- 10.30 Dancing on the Edge: Interview Louis.** Companion piece to Stephen Poliakoff's drama, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor.
- 11.35 Six Nations Rugby Union.** Highlights of the fourth round of matches.
- 12.20 Film:** Catch a Fire. (2006) 1.25 Glastonbury. (R) 2.15 Monk. (R) 2.55 Being Eileen. (R) 3.25 This Is Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

ITV

- 6.00 CITV:** Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. 6.25 The Hobbs. (R) 6.35 The Hive. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Dino Dan. (R) 7.10 Canimals. (R) 7.20 Canimals. 7.25 Bookaboo. 7.40 Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R)
- 8.05** Rated A for Awesome. 8.15 Rated A for Awesome. 8.30 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 8.45 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 9.00 The Aquabats Show. 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 10.20 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.20 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 12.25 ITV News: Weather. 12.30 Film: Carry On Girls. (1973) 2.10 Doc Martin. (R) 3.15 All Star Family Fortunes. (R) 4.00 Live FA Cup Football.
- 6.45 Regional Programme;** Weather.
- 6.50 ITV News:** Weather.
- 7.00 Dancing on Ice.** The three remaining stars battle it out in the final. The last to go on to skate to a self-choreographed version of Torvill and Dean's Bolero routine. Last in the series.
- 9.00 Mr Selfridge.** King Edward VII invites Harry to be his guest on the first night of Ellen Love's play at the theatre, and Rose agrees to attend. But she wants her decision. Last in the series.
- 10.00 ITV News at Ten:** Weather.
- 10.15 FA Cup Football Highlights.** Action from the concluding two sixth-round ties, which were Millwall v Blackburn Rovers at the Den and Manchester United v Chelsea at Old Trafford.
- 11.15 Anglo-Welsh Rugby Union.** Highlights of the fourth round of matches.
- 12.10 Film:** Star Trek. 12.15 Monk. (R) 3.00 ITV Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.15 The Hobbs.** (R) 6.40 The Hobbs. (R) 7.05 Freesports on 4. 7.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.30 The Simpsons. (R) 1.25 The Simpsons. (R) 1.55 Undercover Boss. (R) 2.25 Monk. (R) 3.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 3.30 Deal or No Deal. 3.55 Time Team. 4.55 Channel 4 News. 5.25 4thought.tv. 5.30 Crifts 2013: Best in Show. Clare Balding presents highlights of the final day.
- 8.00 Secrets of the Stonehenge Skeletons.** Documentary following archaeologist Mike Parker Pearson and his research team as they analyse bodies buried beneath the prehistoric monument in Wiltshire.
- 9.00 Film: Limitless.** (2011) Premiere. A failed writer acquires a drug that increases his brain power, but his new abilities attract dangerous attention. Sci-fi thriller, with Bradley Cooper and Robert De Niro.
- 11.05 Film: Splice.** (2009) Premiere. Two scientists create a new creature by mixing DNA from humans and animals, but the experiment soon gets out of control. Sci-fi horror, with Adrienne Brody and Sarah Polley.
- 12.55 Gogglebox.** Weekly TV review programme. (R) 1.40 Film: The Pawnbroker. (1965) Drama, starring Rod Steiger. 3.40 Southland. Tang is involved in a shooting. 4.20 Deal or No Deal. Beat-the-banker game show. (R) 5.15 Steele's Handmade Treasures. (R) 5.25 Countdown. With Chris Packham. (R)

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!** Peppa Pig. 6.05 Peppa Pig. (R) 7.05 The Wizard of Oz. 7.15 Bert and the Fingers. (R) 7.25 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 8.30 The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.45 Olive the Ostrich. (R) 6.50 Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) 7.00 Roarbaard and Custard Too. 7.10 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.20 Anna and Antics. (R) 7.30 The Way to Noddy. (R) 8.00 Milkshake! Monkey. (R) 7.45 City of Friends. (R) 7.55 Little Princess. (R) 8.10 The Adventures of Bottie Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) 8.20 Mio Mac. (R) 8.25 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 8.40 Castle Farm. (R) 8.45 Rubberband. (R) 8.50 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.15 Toby's Travelling Circus. 9.30 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 9.40 Jelly Jamm. (R) 10.00 Power Rangers Samurai. (R) 10.35 Batman: The Brave and the Bold. 11.00 Inside Hollywood 2013. (R) 12.00 Inside the Year Awards 2013. 1.35 Film: Are We Done Yet? (2007) 2.30 Film: Space Jam. (1996) 5.00 Film: Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed. (2004) Comedy adventure sequel, with Sarah Michelle Gellar.
- 6.40 5 News Weekend.**
- 6.45 Film: Rocky II.** (1979) Drama sequel, with Sylvester Stallone, Talia Shire and Carl Weathers.
- 9.00 Person of Interest.** The Machine directs Finch to an abandoned six-month-old girl.
- 10.00 Film: Drive Angry.** (2011) Premiere. Fantasy thriller, starring Nicolas Cage.
- 12.05 CCTV Cities.** (R) 1.05 SuperCasino. 4.00 HouseBusters. (R) 4.25 Divine Designs. (R) 4.50 County Secrets. (R) 5.00 Hanas' Handmade Treasures. (R) 5.15 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

- BBC Three** 7.00 Let's Dance for Comic Relief 8.30 Film: Kara Croft: Tomb Raider 9.00 Film: The Human 7.00 Bluestone 42 11.30 Family Guy
- BBC Four** 7.00 Arena: Ken Dodd – Happiness 8.00 Parks and Recreation 8.40 Minuscule: The Private Life of Insects 9.00 Film: The Aviator (2004) 11.35 Totally British: 70s Rock
- ITV2** 7.25 Film: The Mighty Ducks (1992) 7.30 Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) 7.15 Film: Hulk (2003)
- ITV** 10.00 The Only Way Is Essex 10.50 Big Rich Texas 11.50 Celebrity Juice
- ITV3** 3.00 Film: Descent (1994) 5.00 Film: The 'Burbs (1989) 7.00 The Sweeney 8.00 Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union 9.00 Film: Any Which Way You Can (1980) 11.15 Film: Serenity (2005)
- E4** 4.05 Revenge 5.00 The Big Bang Theory 6.00 New Girl 7.00 How I Met Your Mother 8.00 Once Upon a Time 9.00 Once Upon a Time 11.00 The Big Bang Theory: It All Started with a Big Bang 11.35 The Big Bang Theory
- Film4** 3.15 Honey, I Blew Up the Kid (1992) 5.00 The Wizard of Oz (1939) 7.05 Down with Love (2003) Romantic comedy set in the 1960s, starring Ewan McGregor and Renée Zellweger. 9.00 Dorian Gray (2009) Horror film. 9.15 The Milkshake! Show. 9.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 11.10 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Passenger 57, Channel 5, 11pm

After his wife is shot dead during a robbery, a cop hands in his badge and takes up a job offer from an old friend to be a security adviser for a major transatlantic airline. On the flight taking him to his new employers in Los Angeles is an international terrorist being escorted to trial by the FBI – while the prisoner's accomplices are disguised as passengers and crew and plan to hijack the plane. Action thriller, with Wesley Snipes, Bruce Payne and Tom Sizemore. (1992)

TUESDAY

Racing for Time, BBC1, 12.20am

A guard at a facility for teenage offenders is struck by the racial tensions between the female inmates, and resolves to bring them together. He organises the girls into a team, and encourages them to break down the divisions between them as they strive to turn their lives around. Fact-based drama, directed by and starring Charles S Dutton. With Elizabeth Pena. (2008)



Fight Club, Friday, Channel 4, 11.20pm

WEDNESDAY

Ruthless People, BBC1, 11.40pm

Selfish tycoon Sam Stone plans to murder his wife, only to find she has been kidnapped. He creates a media circus, hoping it will encourage the kidnappers to do his dirty work for him, but fails to realise the couple holding his wife hostage are a timid pair not cut out for a life of crime. Meanwhile, Sam's mistress thinks he really has killed his wife, and plans to blackmail him. Comedy, with Danny DeVito and Bette Midler. (1986)

THURSDAY

There Will Be Blood, BBC2, 11.20pm

An oil prospector presents the public image of a caring family man while nurturing a murderous ambition to seize control of land and wealth at any cost. But his insatiable greed leads to a violent conflict with a young priest who is also intent on using the people and resources of an oil-rich town for his own ends. Paul Thomas Anderson's historical drama, starring an Oscar-winning Daniel Day-Lewis, with Paul Dano and Dillon Freasier. (2007)

FRIDAY

Fight Club, Channel 4, 11.20pm

A disillusioned office worker grows weary of his humdrum existence, but after meeting the mysterious Tyler Durden he finds fulfillment in establishing a club where similarly frustrated men come to vent their anger in bouts of bare-knuckle fighting. Satirical drama directed by David Fincher, starring Edward Norton, Brad Pitt, Helena Bonham Carter, Meat Loaf and Jared Leto. (1999)

Influenced by both mainland Scotland and Scandinavia, the Shetland Islands is a location like no other. For award-winning writer Anne Cleeves, the uniqueness and sense of place made it an ideal setting for her novel Red Bones, a traditional British crime drama with a twist.

Cleeves' work has been adapted into the two-part drama Shetland being shown on consecutive nights, with Douglas Henshall assuming the role of detective Jimmy Perez, a native Shetlander and widower who decided to return home with his step-daughter so she can be near her biological father.

Needless to say, it's not too long before his professional skills are called upon when a young archaeologist discovers a set of human remains that could be more recent than may be considered appropriate.

Henshall's Scottish accent is, of course, entirely genuine, though he was born in urban Glasgow rather than the rural splendours of Shetland: "I always thought of Shetland as being a place that was so remote it was always in a wee

box during the weather. Sometimes I wonder if people really know where it is or what it's like, what the people are like and what goes on there."

A veteran of such TV dramas as Lipstick on Your Collar, Psychos and Primeval, Henshall is keen to dismiss notions that Perez fits into the same stereotype as so many other sleuths juggling their work with domestic obligations: "He's not one of those haunted types with lots of problems, he's actually a straightforward man who would just like a quiet life."

Adaptor David Kana is full of praise for the drama's leading man: "Douglas makes a wonderful Perez, and gives the performance of his career."

Kane faced the unenviable task of tailoring Perez's words and mannerisms to fit the new format, while also transforming it in a way that pleases all concerned, but it's a craft he has honed over the years. "The biggest consideration when adapting a novel for TV is to get the essence of the story the writer wanted to get across even if you have to change certain parts of the plot." Some of the alterations can be quite radical, even to the point of supplementing the

characters, which he did here by creating DC Alison Macleish. "I created Tosh to work with Perez, in the hope the warmth of their relationship would counterbalance the darkness of the story," he adds.

Writer Cleeves admits it's a little unnerving seeing her written work played out before her eyes:

"Occasionally the dialogue is taken almost exactly from the book and that is a bit spooky, as if my characters have come to life. Usually though, although the adaptation captures the spirit of the original, it's done in a different form. I can watch it and enjoy it as any other viewer would."

The hope is that a warm reception to Shetland will lead to a further commission. After all, Cleeves has written a quartet of tales set on the islands.

And anyone thinking the Shetland region is low on population and therefore has limited potential for serious crime has clearly learned nothing from the likes of Bergerac and Midsomer Murders. There are some strange folk living in wild and lonely places...

Pick of the Week

Jimmy takes a shot in the dark on his new case



Douglas Henshall stars in Shetland, Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

A History of Syria with Dan Snow BBC2, 9pm

This new one-off documentary sees the broadcaster travel to the Middle East on a journey to explore the fascinating and tumultuous history that lies behind the civil war now raging in Syria. He explains how the country has a tumultuous past, and the impact that has on today's conflict – as what started as peaceful protests against President Bashar al-Assad's totalitarian regime have turned increasingly into a struggle along sectarian lines involving global and regional powers. He visits Roman temples, the centre of the world's greatest Islamic empire, crusader castles and today's battlegrounds in a bid to piece together the complex history of a strategically important region at the heart of the Middle East.

TUESDAY

Embarassing Bodies Channel 4, 9pm

There's a lot to be said for the docs at the heart of this programme. Pixie, Christian and Dawn are bigger people than us – after all, we can briefly turn our heads away from the telly if we don't like the look of something – they have to persevere. This week, they're popping up their portable clinic at the Bristol Balloon Fiesta. Meanwhile, Dr Dawn meets a new mum with a painful post-pregnancy problem.

TUESDAY

Live UEFA Champions League ITV, 7.30pm

There have been suggestions recently that Barcelona are not the team they used to be. Their

two-legged Copa Del Rey defeat at the hands of arch-rivals Real Madrid a fortnight ago was preceded by a 2-0 away defeat at the hands of Italian giants AC Milan in the first half of their UEFA Champions League last-16 tie. So have Lionel Messi, Andres Iniesta, Xavi and co lost their mojo since former manager Pep Guardiola departed last year? Don't count on it. Milan should certainly beware of this wounded animal when they meet again because Barca will be going all out for goals at the Nou Camp.

Wednesday

Whale Adventure with Nigel Marven Channel 5, 8pm

As the song says, some guys have all the luck. Take Nigel Marven, for instance. He has none of the drudgery of a nine-to-five office job. Instead, he's out and about, taking trips to far-flung places in search of amazing animal stories. His latest sees him journeying along the Pacific coast of North America from Mexico to Alaska. He's on the trail of a grey whale mother and her newborn calf as they abandon their summer feeding grounds before heading for the icy seas of the Arctic. Nigel's epic journey begins in Baja's San Ignacio lagoon, where the calf is born and learns some much-needed swimming skills.

WEDNESDAY

EastEnders BBC1, 8pm

Poor Bianca – if she's guilty of anything, it's being too trusting in her son, Liam. Following her

shocking discovery of Tamwar's money belt in his room last night, her world has come crashing down around her – yet still she refuses to believe that the lad could have had anything to do with Tamwar's mugging. Her faith could be her undoing, however, when the police come calling asking to speak with Liam about his whereabouts at the time of the assault. Bianca's not the only wounded mum in Walford, as Abi discovers when she sneaks home in the middle of the night to find Tanya has been waiting up for her. A blazing row soon erupts, as the teen's activities come to light.

Thursday

The Mimic Channel 4, 10pm

You have to admire Terry Mynott: he's managed to find a platform that showcases his passion for both impersonations and acting – in this new sitcom. Mynott stars as Martin

Hurdle, a maintenance man who's got an uncanny ability to mimic voices. There's not a right lot to be said about Martin's life – he's been stuck in the same dead end job for over seven years and not much remarkable ever happens to him. Until now, as it emerges that he could be the father of 18-year-old Steven. Jacob Anderson, Jo Hartley co-stars.

A History of Syria with Dan Snow, Monday, BBC2, 9pm

THURSDAY

Born to Be Different Channel 4, 9pm

Ask any little person about the troubles that come hand in hand with growing up and they will reel off all manner of woes such as the fact that they didn't get the monster truck they wanted for their birthday, or that so-and-so at school keeps telling the teacher on them. But for the six youngsters in this film, their issues run much deeper. This award-winning documentary series has followed a group of children each born with a disability, and has offered intricate insights into what it's like to grow up with a disability as they face important transitions in their lives; this time, they're moving from primary to secondary school. Stories include that of Hamish, who was born with achondroplasia (commonly known as 'dwarfism').

FRIDAY

Comic Relief – Funny for Money BBC1, 7pm

Now in its 25th year, the biennial Red Nose Day is back, and the likes of Lenny Henry, Dermot O'Leary and Claudia Winkleman are on hand to raise cash to help thousands in Africa and the UK. Rowan Atkinson hopes to tickle a few ribs as the new Archbishop of Canterbury, and Jessie J will have her head shaved in the studio. Global superstars One Direction belt out their Comic Relief single; Miranda Hart appears in a light-hearted take on Call the Midwife, while Miss Piggy also makes an appearance... and that's just in the first hour. So turn on, laugh loud, dig deep and save lives.

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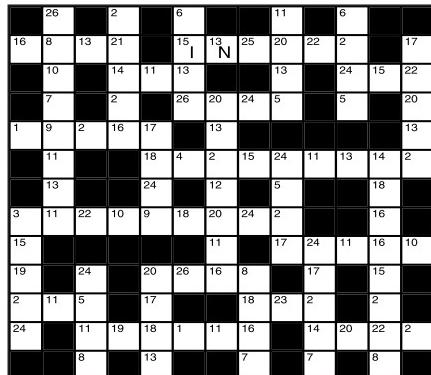
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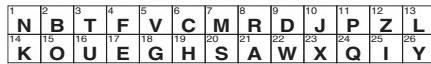
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

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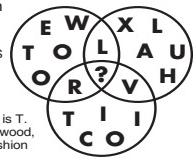
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ALL YOUR PUZZLE NEEDS**IN ONE HANDY APP!****Circlegram**

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
 The letter represented by the question mark is T.
 Gaultier, Westwood,
 Vuitton, all Fashion Designers.

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HANDY APP!****Double Crossword**

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:**Across**

- 1 & 13 Ac. When the secretary finishes the record of the meeting? (2,3,4,6)
8. Unfinished top copy (3)
9. Backing that gives a sign of approval (11)
11. Checks the school books again for observations (7)
12. Make a proportionate distribution from a national lottery (5)
13. See 1 across
15. Went into a clinch and barred the entrance (6)
17. Medical officer goes to the right vehicle (5)
18. Broadcast routes for flying concerns (7)
20. She won't play safe! (11)
22. Endless cycle of duty - that's complete nonsense (3)
23. Test racer converted for public transport (6-3)

Down

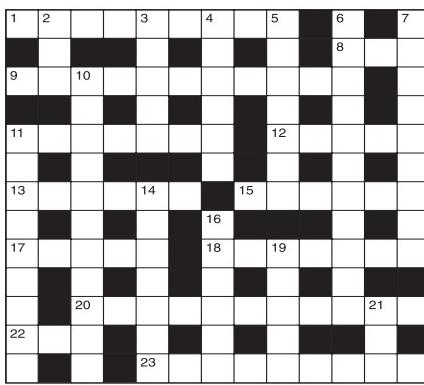
2. Net return reveals the amount (3)
3. Dreaded object beheaded - that must be wrong (5)
4. Declares the East is showing reluctance (6)
5. It protects one of the low joints (3-4)
6. The creature to treat ankles badly! (11)
7. Current changes showing little rise and fall (4-5)
10. Show what disconcerted groups do (11)
11. Isn't oblivious about the people in the society (9)
14. The man who succeeds does? (7)
16. One who won't allow the standard to be kept up? (6)
19. This way sounds decidedly radical (5)
21. South Pennsylvania where people go to convalesce (3)

Quick Clues:**Across**

1. Journal (9)
8. Possess (3)
9. Meaning (11)
11. Agitation (7)
12. Mistake (5)
13. Harmony (6)
15. Firm (6)
17. Heavenly body (5)
18. Caller (7)
20. Change direction (5,6)
22. Transgression (3)
23. Dock worker (9)

Down

2. Tree (3)
3. Value highly (5)
4. Inserts (6)
5. Apparel (7)
6. Writer for a publication (11)
7. Underclothes (9)
9. Go separate ways (4,7)
11. Right to vote (9)
14. Revolves (7)
16. Swallow (6)
19. Inclination (5)
21. Prefix to Knight's name (3)



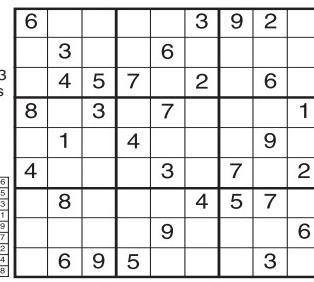
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Stills; 8 Groove; 10 Pasture; 11 Forge; 12 Idol; 13 Birth; 17 Cheat; 18 Evil; 22 Arie; 23 Entrant; 24 Misuse; 25 Encore. Down: 1 Aseptic; 2 Mission; 3 Floor; 4 Profits; 5 Board; 6 Never; 9 Generates; 14 The less; 15 Aviator; 16 Flatten; 19 Palms; 20 First; 21 Atone. QUICK - Across: 7 Happen; 8 Polite; 10 Traduce; 11 Sight; 12 Lees; 13 Split; 17 Heart; 18 Know; 22 Lower; 23 Tension; 24 Strive; 25 Funnel. Down: 1 Whittle; 2 Apparel; 3 Begun; 4 Worship; 5 Dingy; 6 Jetty; 9 Desperate; 14 Reprove; 15 Ancient; 16 Twinkle; 19 Bless; 20 Swarm; 21 Annul.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	8	3	1	5	7	1	9	6
9	1	4	2	3	6	8	7	5
5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4
3	4	5	7	6	8	9	1	2
7	5	2	3	1	6	4	9	8
8	9	1	6	4	5	2	3	7
1	4	8	7	6	3	9	5	2
3	2	9	5	8	7	6	4	1
6	7	5	4	2	9	3	1	8



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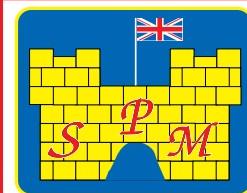
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The fitted kitchen, 10ft by 7ft 4in, has a range of wall and base units, round edge work surfaces, one-and-a-half bowl sink with mixer tap, integrated appliances including oven, hob, extractor fan and fridge and door to the garage.

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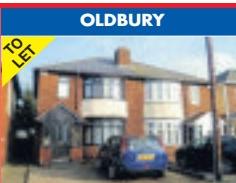
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BRIERLEY HILL

84-86 High Street

01384 265265

STOURBRIDGE

85 High Street

01384 395555

6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS

COSELEY



Barnes Meadow Place



EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS, particularly stylish & already tremendously enhanced, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached family residence constructed circa 2004 in favoured cul de sac with GOOD DISTANT VIEWS. Superb accommodation includes enlarged (18'0" x 17'5") lounge, store, separate dining room (with double french doors), upgraded kitchen with fine range of 'maple' effect units (& high gloss granite tiled floor), matching laundry, fitted cloakroom. Principal bedroom suite with many built-in wardrobes, a 'dressing section' & shower room en suite, three further generous bedrooms (one with built-in wardrobes), bathroom, garage, landscaped garden. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £219,950

NETHERTON



Lynbrook Close

This uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, three bedroom semi-detached home is situated in an established residential location and is well worthy of internal inspection. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Through Lounge / Dining Room, Kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, re-fitted Shower Room, Driveway, Car Port and Rear Garden. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£124,950

NETHERTON



Windmill End

This modern style, double glazed, two bedroom semi detached Bungalow is delightfully situated backing onto the Bumblehole Nature Reserve and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. The well presented property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Pleasant L-Shaped Lounge, Kitchen, TWO GOOD BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Tarmacadam Driveway and Rear Garden. EPC Rating E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£99,950

BRIERLEY HILL



Seagers Lane

Presenting a rare opportunity, this double glazed (most units uPVC), gas centrally heated, three bedroom detached family home is situated in a well-regarded backwater, whilst offering excellent local amenities. The property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, through Lounge / Dining Room, Kitchen, three good Bedrooms, refitted Shower Room with white suite, Garage, Driveway and rear Garden. EPC rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£164,950

COSELEY



Chad Road

An absolutely outstanding, EXTENDED & tremendously enhanced, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached that has been 'transformed' by present vendors in recent years to an exemplary specification. Stylish accommodation includes: entrance hall, large refitted transverse 22'6" dining kitchen with a fine range of 'high gloss cream' finish units & integrated appliances, double doors leading to compact 9ft porch with wash hand shower/wet room en suite. Two generous double bedrooms (one with a superb range of fitted units), reappointed/re-tiled bathroom with white contemporary suite incorporating white suite, separate shower, toilet and bidet. Secluded parking, delightful secluded/landscaped rear garden incorporating decking, gazebo & water feature. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £129,950

DUDLEY



Quarry Road

This traditional style, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, bay fronted semi detached home is situated in an established residential locality, and has been considerably improved by the current owners. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Through Lounge / Dining Room, extended Kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, Bathroom with white suite, Driveway and a neat rear Garden. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£131,500

DUDLEY



The Broadway



A substantial, imposing, primarily uPVC double glazed and gas centrally heated detached residence constructed (vendor advises) in the early 1950's to an exacting specification upon a fine corner plot. The property has been totally modernised & 'transformed' in recent years including retaining or enhancing many period features alongside leaded/stained casements, wood block floors etc. and the superb accommodation includes elegant reception hall (9ft ceiling height), re-appointed bathroom, through sitting room with bay, spacious lounge/dining room with two bays (originally separate rooms), magnificently fitted breakfast kitchen with extensive range of units, airy second floor double glazed garden room beyond gallery landing, THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, stylish re-appointed bathroom with white suite and chrome details. Brick/block paved paths, secluded garden, DOUBLE drive through garage with further secure parking beyond. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £259,950

DUDLEY



Bowling Green Road

This uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated FIRST FLOOR FLAT, is well presented throughout and may be of particular interest to FIRST TIME BUYERS. The property briefly comprises: open plan Lounge / Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with white suite and off road Parking. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£64,950

SEDGLEY



High Park Crescent

A tremendously ENLARGED/EXTENDED, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached family residence in highly favoured district, traditionally presented by present vendors in recent years. Outstanding accommodation includes reception hall, fitted cloakroom, further store, lounge with bay and 'hole in the wall' feature fireplace, magnificent 9ft transverse dining/kitchen with a fine range of units, double glazed CONSERVATORY. To the first floor are four generous bedrooms (two with a wide range of fitted units), stylish reappointed bathroom with white suite. Staircase up to a further playroom/office/potential bedroom. Garage, delightful secluded garden. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £249,950

COSELEY



Kings Road



An exceptionally stylish & significantly EXTENDED, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached of character. Envably situated with walking distances of Sedgley Park, schools, shopping areas, bus routes and unspoilt fields. The accommodation (on three levels) comprises: reception hall, fitted cloakroom, elegant 18 ft sitting room with bay, magnificently 'hub of the house' 17'10" x 18' dining kitchen with island section and integrated appliances. Separate kitchen with island section and integrated appliances. To the first floor are two double bedrooms and further bedrooms together with a spacious bathroom with white suite and shower en suite. To the second floor, principal bedroom with walk-in wardrobe & shower room en suite. Large newly built garage, landscaped garden. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £225,000

GORNAL WOOD



Cinder Road

RARE OPPORTUNITY - EXTENSIVE GARDENS WITH SEPARATE VEHICULAR ACCESS! A distinctive, significantly extended, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached with flexible room arrangements, and tremendous possibilities. Set within walking distance of village/fields, and comprising: reception hall, separate dining room, kitchen with an extensive range of 'oak' units, spacious through living room with bay, study, and a utility room. Landing with doors off to bathroom, bedrooms two and three, together with principal bedroom one (communicating through to large fourth double bedroom with shower room en suite). Extensive secluded, expertly tended gardens with additional vehicular access, and former STABLE BLOCK. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £259,950

COSELEY



Nicholds Close

This immaculately presented, conscientiously maintained uPVC double glazed semi detached family home has been considerably improved/updated by the current owners & simply must be viewed to fully appreciate the standard of accommodation provided. The impressive property briefly comprises: entrance hall, stylish lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, double glazed CONSERVATORIUM addition, guest w/c, four good bedrooms (principal bedroom with en suite), family bathroom with white suite, four-car driveway, garage & a beautiful rear garden. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £235,000

SEDGLEY



Ripley Grove

Recently built, exceptionally stylish (former showhome), gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached occupying fine corner plot & covered by remainder of NHBC. Accommodation provides imposing reception hall with spacious fitted cloakroom, through lounge (with double aspect), dining room (with double aspect), kitchen/breakfast room (with double aspect), good size dining kitchen acting as 'hub of the house' with a fine range of units with many integrated appliances, FOUR BEDROOMS (principal bedroom with built in wardrobes & shower room en suite - built in wardrobes to second bedroom), bathroom with white suite, landscaped garden with brick GARAGE and shower room en suite. Large newly built garage, landscaped garden. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in excess of £180,000

DUDLEY



£5,000 REDUCTION

Wombourne Road



A VERY IMPRESSIVE SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE, which enjoys a FANTASTIC CORNER POSITION, within the highly desirable Swindon Village. The accommodation has been BEAUTIFULLY RE APPPOINTED and IMPROVED in recent years and comprises: entrance hall, enclosed side entrance, reception hall, Full Width Lounge, Luxury Refitted kitchen with built in appliances and DINING AREA off Utility Ground Floor WC, excellent store, THREE BEDROOMS (bed 1 with fitted wardrobes) and LUXURY SHOWER ROOM. Front/ side lawns, DRIVEWAY and a very pleasant rear garden with store. EPC Rating C. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01902 401777

£169,950

SWINDON



NOW AVAILABLE

The Plantation

A DISTINCTIVE AND BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED MUCKLOW SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME within this highly desirable cul-de-sac address, offering IMPRESSIVELY SPACIOUS and IMMACULATED ACCOMMODATION throughout, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPV DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: Reception Hall, very spacious RE-APPPOINTED AVANTIS KITCHEN with integrated appliances, Den/Chill, Pinpoint oven, THREE EXCELLENT SIZED BEDROOMS and classic white Bathroom with separate shower. Having attractive lawned foregarden with shrubs, TARMAC DRIVEWAY, GARAGE/STORE (for storage only) and BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01902 401777

£164,950

PENSNETT



Offers in the region of £160,000

COSELEY



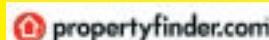
Beechfield Grove, Bramford Estate

A magnificent, comprehensively renovated, EXTENDED, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached that has been 'transformed' by present vendors in recent years to an outstanding specification. Stylish accommodation includes a large ground floor reception room, a further room (with log burner), dining room with built in kitchen with 'high gloss white' units & various integrated appliances, large utility/launder room, separate toilet & a further reception room (alternative use as bedroom or office, etc.), three bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with white suite, extensive garden, garage & a beautiful rear garden. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888



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DUDLEY
Bennetts Hill

NEW INSTRUCTION

A beautifully presented and deceptively spacious 3/4 bedroom bungalow. Briefly comprising of lounge, dining room, third reception room/bedroom, fourth reception room/bedroom, kitchen, breakfast room, work shop and a family bathroom. To the rear there is a tiered mature enchanting garden and to the front of the property there is ample off road parking.

£229,950

Tividale
NEW BIRMINGHAM ROAD

NEW INSTRUCTION

A three bedroom semi detached house with lounge, dining room, conservatory, upstairs bathroom, large driveway and mature gardens to the rear

£129,950

Dudley
BIRMINGHAM ROAD

NEW INSTRUCTION

A three bedroom semi detached house in need of some modernisation with porch, hallway, lounge with dining area, kitchen, upstairs bathroom and gardens to the front and rear

£94,950

TIPTON
Watts Close

A well presented two bedroom semi detached house with lounge, dining room, kitchen, driveway, garage and gardens to the rear

£114,950

Dudley
REDWOOD AVENUE

NEW INSTRUCTION

A beautifully presented three bedroom semi detached house with hallway, lounge, dining kitchen, utility room, downstairs wc, upstairs bathroom, driveway to the front and garden to the rear

£119,950

RUSSELLS HALL
Abbottsford Drive

NEW INSTRUCTION

A three bedroom end terraced house with through lounge, kitchen, family bathroom, allocated parking and gardens to the front and rear

£97,950

Russells Hall
MERRYFIELD ROAD

NEW INSTRUCTION

A three bedroom semi detached house with lounge, dining area, modern fitted kitchen, upstairs family bathroom, garage, gardens to the front and rear and off road parking.

£134,950

HOLLY HALL
Suffolk Road

NEW INSTRUCTION

A rare opportunity to purchase an extended four bedroom dormer bungalow with four reception rooms, utility room, large dining kitchen, en-suite to master bedroom, garden and an extensive driveway to the front

£239,950

Dudley
GADS GREEN CRESCENT

NEW INSTRUCTION

A two bedroom first floor apartment with hallway, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, communal gardens and secure entry system

£47,950

A three bedroom semi detached property on a generous corner plot. Briefly comprising lounge, dining room, modern fitted kitchen, upstairs family bathroom, front and rear gardens.

£109,950

Halesowen
BATH MEADOW

NEW INSTRUCTION

A modern three bedroom semi detached house with lounge, kitchen with dining area, downstairs wc, driveway and gardens to the front and rear

£129,950

NETHERTON
Halesowen Road

TO LET

A second floor, two bed apartment including lounge, two double bedrooms, kitchen, rear lobby with shower/WC and shower over the bath. Parking to the rear, unfurnished, available now.

£395 PCM

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**We have applicants looking for properties
to rent in the Dudley and surrounding area's.
Call now for your free no obligation rental
valuation on 01384 213395**

DUDLEY
Blackacre Road

TO LET

A splendid, one bed studio apartment - fully furnished with cooking facilities. Free broadband, council tax, gas bills and cleaning services included in the rent. Available now. DSS considered with a guarantor.

£395 PCM

COSELEY
Bank Street

NEW INSTRUCTION

A detached three bedroom house with off road parking and detached single garage. Through lounge/diner, fitted kitchen with integral fridge. Downstairs WC and house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Unfurnished, available now, no DSS.

£625 PCM

TIPTON
New Hall Street

NEW INSTRUCTION

One bedroom 1st floor apartment. Large lounge, fitted kitchen including appliances. Bathroom with electric shower. Under floor heating. Secure parking and intercom. DSS considered with good references and guarantor. No pets.

£425 PCM

DUDLEY
66/67 High Street

NEW PRICE

A recently refurbished immaculately presented two bedroom first floor apartment with open plan lounge diner, fitted kitchen, good size bedrooms and centrally located.

£475 pcm

DUDLEY
Maple Road

NEW PRICE

A 3 bed semi-detached house on a corner plot with central heating. A through lounge, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom. Upstairs has a house shower/WC/shower room. Unfurnished, available now. DSS considered with guarantor. No Pets.

£495PCM

TIVIDALE
Elizabeth Mews

NEW PRICE

Two bedroom semi-detached house located in cul de sac. New fitted kitchen with brand new oven/hob. New bathroom with shower. Central heating & double glazing. Enclosed rear garden. Unfurnished, available now. No Pets.

£495 PCM

TIPTON
Monins Avenue

NEW INSTRUCTION

A modern, two bed end terraced house, lounge, fitted kitchen, upstairs has a house bathroom. Private garden to the side and rear. Off road parking to the front. Unfurnished, available now for viewing and long term let. No DSS.

£525 PCM

TIVIDALE
Raby Close

NEW PRICE

A three bedroom semi detached house in a cul de sac. Central heating, lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, small garage with utility area at the rear. Unfurnished, available now, no DSS.

£575 PCM



RODEN BOYDELL



NORTHWAY

A four-bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception porch, a reception hall, a lounge with a fireplace, leading to the dining room, a fitted kitchen, a master bedroom en-suite, three further bedrooms, a family bathroom, a downstairs w/c, a utility room, an outside laundry room, double-glazing where stated, gas fired central heating, a tandem garage and a beautiful rear garden. EPC Rating D

£249,950

CHARLECOTE DRIVE

A four-bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception porch, a lounge, a dining room, a conservatory, a superb fitted dining kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, a master bedroom en-suite, three further bedrooms, a family bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, a garage and a lovely rear garden. EPC rating D

£239,950

MONTPELIER GARDENS

A four-bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a spacious lounge, a dining room, a magnificent fitted kitchen, a utility room, a study, a master bedroom en-suite, three further good-sized bedrooms, a family bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas-fired central heating, a garage and a lovely rear garden. EPC rating C

£239,950

NORTHWAY

A four-bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a separate sitting room, a dining area, a magnificent kitchen with a comprehensive range of integrated appliances, a downstairs wc, a utility room with access to a storage room, a master bedroom en-suite, three further bedrooms, a family bathroom, UPVC double glazing (where stated), gas fired central heating and a pleasant rear garden. EPC rating E

£229,950

CAERNARVAN WAY

A four-bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a lounge, a magnificent fitted dining kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, a conservatory, a utility room, a master bedroom en-suite, four bedrooms, a family bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden. EPC rating D

£199,950

HOPTON GARDENS

A three-bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a lounge, an open plan kitchen/dining room, a conservatory, a utility room, a master bedroom en-suite, two further bedrooms, a family bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden. EPC rating D

£186,950

SANDYFIELDS ROAD

A three-bedroom detached bungalow that briefly comprises a reception hall, a lounge, a fitted kitchen, a utility room, three bedrooms, a bathroom, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden. EPC rating E

£184,950

STRAITS ROAD

A two-bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a lounge, a superb dining kitchen with a comprehensive range of integrated appliances, two double bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating and pleasant gardens. EPC rating B

£166,950

CHASE VIEW

A three-bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception porch, a reception hall, a lounge, a separate dining room, a superb fitted kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, three bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden that backs onto the Beacon. EPC rating D

£164,950

COPPICE CLOSE

A three-bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception porch, a reception hall, a lounge, a sitting room/dining room, a conservatory, a fitted kitchen, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing where stated, gas fired central heating, a garage and a lovely rear garden. EPC rating D

£162,950

CHAUCER AVENUE

A three-bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, an open plan lounge/dining room, a conservatory, a brand new fitted kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, three bedrooms, a brand new bathroom, UPVC double glazing where stated, gas fired central heating, a garage and a lovely rear garden. EPC rating E

£159,950

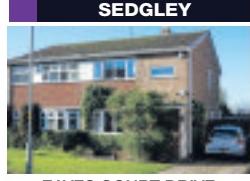
GAINSBOROUGH PLACE

A three-bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a lounge, a superb fitted kitchen with open access to the dining room, three bedrooms, a magnificent bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, a garage that has been subdivided to create a playroom and a storage area, a driveway and a lovely rear garden. EPC Rating D

£159,950

NORTHWAY

A three-bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception porch, a reception hall, a lounge, a sitting room / dining room, a superb fitted kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, three bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden. EPC rating E

£159,950

EAVES COURT DRIVE

A three-bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception porch, a lounge, a dining room, a fitted kitchen with open access to the conservatory, three bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing where stated, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden. EPC rating D

£157,950

PENNS WOOD CLOSE

A three-bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception porch, a spacious lounge, a conservatory, a fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing where stated, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden. EPC rating D

£157,950

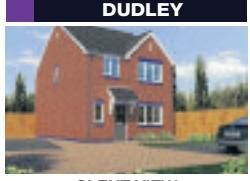
AUSTIN CLOSE

A three-bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a lounge, a dining room, a superb fitted breakfast kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, a downstairs w/c, a master bedroom ensuite, two further bedrooms, a family bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating and a pleasant rear garden. EPC rating D

£155,950

WINSCAR CROFT

A three-bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, an open plan lounge/dining room, a conservatory, a superb fitted kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, three bedrooms, a master bedroom ensuite, two further bedrooms, a family bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden. EPC rating D

£149,950

CLENT VIEW

Client View is a stunning development of brand new two and three-bedroom homes situated in a quiet residential location adjacent to Buffery Park in Dudley. The Ludlow is a three-bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a lounge, a dining room, a through lounge, a fitted kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, master bedroom ensuite with two further bedrooms, family bathroom, a driveway and a rear garden. EPC rating B

£146,950

DOVEDALE ROAD

A three-bedroom semi-detached home that would ideally benefit from modernisation and cosmetic improvement to create a family home which briefly comprises a reception porch, a reception hall, a lounge with an open fire, a television room, a dining room/sitting room, a kitchen, three bedrooms, a bathroom, a garage and a good sized rear garden with panoramic views. EPC rating E

£134,950

RUITON STREET

A two-bedroom end terraced home that briefly comprises a lounge, a conservatory, a superb fitted breakfast kitchen, a guest cloakroom, two double bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating and a garage situated at the rear of the property. EPC to be advised.

£121,950

SHADWELL DRIVE

A three-bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a lounge, a superb dining kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, three double bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, a driveway and a pleasant rear garden. EPC rating D

£119,950

KINGS ROAD

A three-bedroom mid-terrace home that briefly comprises a lounge, a dining room, a magnificent fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating and a delightful rear garden. EPC rating E

£109,950

THE WALK

A two-bedroom semi-detached home that would ideally benefit from cosmetic improvement to create a lovely home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a through lounge, a dining kitchen, a downstairs w/c, two bedrooms, a bathroom and a pleasant rear garden. EPC Rating F

£84,950

CARDONESS PLACE

A 50% shared ownership property that briefly comprises a reception porch, a lounge, a superb fitted dining kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, two bedrooms, a bathroom, double-glazing, gas fired central heating, a driveway and a rear garden. EPC rating C

£57,950

connells.co.uk

Dudley

Connells

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Paganel Drive Dudley **£215,000**

A three bedroom semi detached, two reception rooms, kitchen, cloakroom, bathroom, double glazing as specified, central heating. Off road parking. Energy Rating E

Purlin Wharf Netherton **£165,000**

An immaculately presented spacious semi detached property with 2 reception rooms, w.c. ensuite to master bedroom, bathroom and converted garage/leisure room. Energy Rating C.

Oak Crescent Tividale **£144,950**

This traditional semi detached property benefits from bay window, spacious block paved driveway, two reception rooms, refitted kitchen, must be viewed. Energy Rating E

The Beck Netherton **£129,995**

An immaculately presented three bedroom property benefits from spacious kitchen/diner, lounge, no work required and ready to move in. Ideal first time buyers purchase. Energy Rating TBC

Corbyn Road Russells Hall **£114,950**

A well presented semi detached property, accommodation comprises hall, through lounge, refitted kitchen, first floor landing having three bedrooms and refitted bathroom, driveway, double glazing as specified, gas central heating. Property must be viewed. Energy Rating D

Avenue Road Coseley **£70,000**

This two bedroom semi detached property is an ideal investment opportunity, must be viewed. Energy Rating F.

Abbotsford Drive Dudley

**224,50**

REDUCED

A much improved three bedroom detached corner bungalow, comprise entrance hallway, through lounge, fitted kitchen, bedroom three/study, conservatory, first floor two double bedrooms and bathroom, chimney, garage, double glazing as specified, gas central heating. Viewing recommended. Energy Rating G.

Barnsmeadow Place Coseley

**£219,950**

NEW INSTRUCTION

An immaculately presented 4 bedroom detached house set in a cul-de-sac location. Having the benefits of 2 reception rooms this is the ideal family house. Energy Rating TBC.

Cinderbank NETHERTON

**£164,950**

INSTRUCTION

This deceptively spacious three bedroom bungalow benefits from having three good size bedrooms, two reception rooms, large garden to rear, off road parking. Must be viewed to experience full potential. Energy Rating E.

Wilday Close TIPTON

**£147,995**

NEW INSTRUCTION

Located in a quiet cul-de-sac this three bedroom semi detached property offers spacious living accommodation, garage, conservatory to the rear. This ideal family home must be viewed. Energy Rating E.

St Georges Road Dudley **£115,000****£115,000**

REDUCED



REDUCED

Dibdale Road Dudley **£99,950****£99,950**

INSTRUCTION

This two bedroom end terrace offers two reception rooms, character features, newly fitted bath suite, gated off road parking to the side. No upward chain. Energy Rating E.

Queens Hall Dudley **£100,00**Wood Road Lower Gornal **£99,950****99,950**

INSTRUCTION

A semi detached property having three bedrooms, double glazing and central heating, large rear garden CALL 01384 214770 FOR VIEWINGS

Attingham Drive Dudley **£70,000**Redstone Way Lower Gornal **£69,50**

REDUCED

69,50

50% SHARED OWNERSHIP A well presented three bedroom semi detached, comprise entrance hall, downstairs w.c., lounge, kitchen, breakfast room, first floor having three bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking. Subject to independent valuation this property could be purchased outright. Energy Rating F.

Oakthorpe Gardens Tividale **£51,850****£51,850**

INSTRUCTION

Located in a cul-de-sac this two bedroom flat is an ideal project for first time buyers or investor or somebody downsizing. Viewing Highly Recommended. Energy Rating TBC.



SWINSCOES

Sedgley
01902 672274
sales@swinscoes.co.uk

COSELEY

UPPER ETTINGSHALL ROAD

- A modern style 3 bed detached
- Two reception rooms, conservatory
- Contemporary kitchen
- Guest wc
- Secure gated frontage with parking for 2/3 cars
- Garage
- Viewing recommended
- Epc band C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £179,950

SEDGLEY

OAKLEIGH DRIVE

- Superbly presented modern townhouse in a sought after location
- Fabulous open view to the rear
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge, open plan kitchen/dining room
- Gas central heating
- Upvc double glazing
- Garage

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £162,500

UPPER GORNAL

NEW
RIPLEY GROVE

- Modern three bed end terraced house on an exclusive small development.
- Built 5 years ago, NHBC warranty
- Generous sized accommodation
- Lounge, open plan dining kitchen
- Downstairs cloakroom
- En-suite to master bedroom
- Driveway parking
- Epc band C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £161,000

BRAMFORD, COSELEY

BEECHFIELD GROVE

- Beautifully presented throughout, extended three bed traditional style semi on a corner plot
- Open design lounge/dining room
- Two reception rooms, study, guest wc
- Upvc double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Extensive parking
- Epc band C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £160,000

SEDGLEY

NEW
DUDLEY ROAD

- Beautifully presented throughout
- Traditional three bed semi
- Two reception rooms
- Conservatory
- Modern kitchen
- Office space/3rd reception
- Excellent sized rear garden
- Block paved driveway, for 3/4 cars.
- Epc Band D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £159,950

COSELEY

LEGGE LANE

- Spacious double fronted detached bungalow
- Refurbished to a high standard
- Open plan lounge/dining room
- Modern Kitchen, conservatory
- Upvc double glazed windows
- Gas central heating
- Off road parking • Garage at rear
- Epc band D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £137,950

LOWER GORNAL

ELAN CLOSE

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- Perfect first time buyers property
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- Large, open plan dining area/kitchen
- Guest WC
- Well maintained garden
- Off road parking
- Epc band C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £124,950

UPPER GORNAL

STABLE COURT

- Very well presented modern townhouse
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- Recently installed new kitchen & bathroom
- Upvc double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Off road parking
- Ideal for first time buyer
- Epc band C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £112,500

WOODCROSS, COSELEY

CLARE CRESCENT

- Well maintained three bed semi
- Open plan lounge/dining room
- Kitchen, side lobby/store room
- Upvc double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Off road parking
- Pleasant rear garden
- No upward chain
- Epc band D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £112,500

HURST HILL, COSELEY

HARTLAND AVENUE

- Good sized mid terraced property
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge, kitchen, rear extension
- Upvc double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Off road parking
- No upward chain
- Epc band D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £69,950

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- Block paved driveway
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**159 PARKFIELD ROAD,
WOLVERHAMPTON**
Corner Shop/Commercial Premises + rooms to rear
Two Bed Living Accommodation, Two Garages, enclosed and gated yard
GF EPC: E FF EPC: F
VIEWING: 8th & 9th MARCH @ 11.00 am
Guide: £78,000/\$83,000



**23 SHERBORNE ROAD,
BUSHBURY,
WOLVERHAMPTON**
Neatly presented, majority uPVC, Gas CH, Two Reception, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Attractive Garden.
EPC: D
VIEWING: 8th & 9th MARCH @ 11.30 am
Guide: £73,000/\$78,000



**92 HAWKSFORD CRESCENT, BUSHBURY,
WOLVERHAMPTON**
Generous corner plot, Lounge, large Dining Kitchen Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, CH, Gardens, off-road parking EPC: C
VIEWING: 8th & 9th MARCH @ 10.45 am
Guide: \$53,000/\$58,000



**54 BLAKELEY AVENUE,
CLAREGATE**
At head of cul-de-sac with lovely garden
Three Bed Semi, large Bathroom, Two Reception, Kitchen, Gas CH, extensive Garage. EPC: D
VIEWING: 8th & 9th MARCH @ 12.00 noon
Guide: £98,000/\$103,000



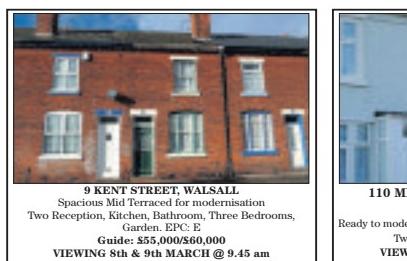
**56 PARK ROAD WEST,
WOLVERHAMPTON**
With outlook to West Park, a spacious Semi for modernisation. Three Reception, Three Bedrooms, Garage, Gardens.
EPC: Pending
VIEWING: 8th & 9th MARCH @ 1.15 pm
Guide: £130,000/\$140,000



**25 THREE TUNS LANE, OXLEY,
WOLVERHAMPTON**
Well located Semi with newly installed CH, majority uPVC Lounge, Dining Kitchen, WC, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Off road parking, Gardens. EPC: Pending
VIEWING: 8th & 9th MARCH @ 12.15 pm
Guide: \$63,000/\$68,000



**24 WHITE OAKS DRIVE,
BISHOPS WOOD**
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VIEWING: 8th & 9th MARCH @ 1pm
Guide: £130,000/\$140,000



9 KENT STREET, WALSHALL
Spacious Mid Terraced for modernisation Two Reception, Kitchen, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Garden. EPC: E
Guide: £55,000/\$60,000
VIEWING: 8th & 9th MARCH @ 9.45 am
Guide: £55,000/\$60,000



**110 MILTON ROAD, FALLINGS PARK,
WOLVERHAMPTON**
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VIEWING: 8th & 9th MARCH @ 10.00 am
Guide: £44,000/\$49,000

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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring
Editor Sharon Walters

Hot hatch with high performance, low price tag and is big on style

By Iain Dooley

IMPRESSIVE performance numbers and an attractive price are two important attributes of Seat's latest Ibiza hot hatch.

The telltale sign is the Spanish car maker's use of its trademark Cupra branding, something fans of Seat's GTI-baiting cars recognise as heralding the arrival of the firm's flagship hot supermini.

Value for money is one thing but looks can make or break a car.

Seat has cleverly chosen to give the Ibiza a relatively low-key Cupra makeover, with the regular car's already distinctive sharp lines and squat stance doing most of the work.

Plus the Cupra's low ride height, bespoke bumpers, black mirror housings, central tailpipe and LED running lights give you a classy-looking hatch that's neither brash nor a wallflower.

Seat might be keen to promote its Spanish roots but the upside of being part of the mighty Volkswagen Group is the ability to make full use of its extensive parts invent-

tory. Every so often you'll find a few gems in the parts bin, and helping the Ibiza Cupra to achieve its segment-busting performance figures is the Volkswagen Group's hi-tech 180 horsepower, 1.4-litre turbo and supercharged petrol engine.

The engine's trick is to combine the measured low-down response of the supercharger with the turbo's more immediate response at the upper end of the performance scale.

Owners of Skoda's second-generation Fabia vRS hot hatch will be familiar with this experience given that the car shares the same engine with the Ibiza.

Reinforcing

As such, the Ibiza's 184lb/ft torque figure is accessible from a lowly 2,000rpm. And it's a contributing factor to the car's brisk 6.9 second 0-62mph sprint time.

Reinforcing the benefits of cross-company parts sharing, the Ibiza also boasts the same seven-speed DSG gearbox as the Fabia.

The upshot is a transmission adept at responding swiftly to driver inputs. Left alone, it'll quickly and smoothly shift up to a high ratio in a bid to maximise fuel economy and refinement.

However, when you want to press on, downshifts are quick and taking manual control via the steering wheel paddles

allows you to better match your speed to a gear of your choosing. Considerable effort has been made by Seat's engineers to tune the Ibiza Cupra for a variety of road conditions, and it's clear that the car's noticeably compliant ride is a welcome step forward over the old model.

That said, pitch and roll has been kept in check, allowing you to attack corners with considerable enthusiasm, with the result that your confidence remains high and you never feel tired or bruised after a session behind the wheel. Of course, the Ibiza's sports front seats can also take some of the load.

An important factor in the Ibiza's behaviour is its steering, which delivers a good balance of weight, accuracy and assistance. Coupled with an array of trick traction and stability systems – including a clever electronic differential control – you can push the car hard, safe in the knowledge that it's working with and not against you.

Seat knows that the ownership experience is about more than just the driving, which is why the Ibiza Cupra comes with a generous level of standard kit.

Granted, you'd expect the car to possess good brakes, and the standard stoppers do the job nicely.

The optional larger diameter AP-branded

items should improve matters if you're partial to track days and routinely enjoy driving the car enthusiastically on the road.

But it's the non-performance bits that should also impress and, crucially, help sweeten the ownership experience when you're grinding your way through town on a Monday morning.

Bi-xenon headlights plus LED daytime running lights, climate control and rain-sensing wipers are joined by a bespoke multimedia system offering navigation, a Bluetooth phone connection plus audio streaming, voice control and a comprehensive trip computer.

Handsome

It's clear, then, that the Ibiza Cupra is easily more than just the sum of its Volkswagen Group parts.

The car's handsome exterior gives little away as to its real-world performance potential.

Once behind the wheel, however, its compliant ride, responsive DSG gearbox and flexible petrol motor combine to deliver a rounded experience that belies the car's 180-on-paper horsepower rating.

Fun, engaging and refined in equal measure, Seat's generosity with a long list of standard kit is the icing on the cake.



The Ibiza Cupra delivers sporting performance with a 0-62 time of 6.9 seconds

Bumper to bumper

Model: Seat Ibiza Cupra, from £18,570 on the road
Engine: 1.4-litre petrol unit developing 180bhp
Transmission: Seven-speed DSG automatic transmission as standard, driving the front wheels
Performance: Maximum speed 142mph, 0-62mph 6.9 seconds
Economy: 47.9mpg
CO2 rating: 139g/km

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Motoring



Kia's Pro-Ceed is a sporty three-door version of its compact hatchback

Kia reveals specification and prices for its new hatchback

KIA has revealed the full specifications and prices for the new Pro-Ceed three-door hatchback.

Available in two unique trim levels called S and SE, the Pro-Ceed also has two engine options.

Both 1.6 litres in size, the 133bhp GDi petrol is £1,100 cheaper than the 126bhp CRDi diesel but the latter achieves CO₂ emissions of 100/g/km

and qualifies for free road tax and congestion charge exemption.

A dual-clutch automatic gearbox is available, but only on the petrol engine.

Performance changes for S and SE models though, despite sharing engines. First, second and sixth gears are different, making the petrol SE 0.3 seconds faster to 60mph and the diesel SE a full second quicker than the diesel S in the same scenario. The roof, the side panels – including the 27cm longer

doors and the whole rear end – have been redesigned from the five-door Cee'd template.

Overall, the car is 40mm lower than its more practical cousin, and looks more aggressive with it. It does, however, maintain a 380-litre boot.

Prices start at £17,495 for the petrol S model. The diesel S is £18,595 and SE trim adds £2,000. The automatic gearbox is only offered on the petrol SE, which then costs £20,795.

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Blackbird thrilled at reception from fans

NEW signing Lewis Blackbird was thrilled with his welcome from Dudley Heathens fans at the club's sellout 2013 launch party.

Blackbird, who helped to deny Heathens the title with Mildenhall last season, was a shock signing in November.

But it was only last Friday when Dudley were able to present him in public at Cradley Heath Liberal Club after a winter racing trip to Australia.

He arrived back in the UK just hours before heading to the Black Country and was greeted by 200 fans.

"The fans were great, they all cheered me on which was what I was hoping for," he said.

"There has been a bit of rivalry between me and the Heathens fans over the last couple of years, but it's all in good fun."

Gelling

"It's been good to get together with the team as well and we have all been gelling together well."

"Hopefully that continues to grow through the season and we can end up taking the title together."

"We'll all muck in together and try to get a good team spirit going."

Blackbird was excused from the following day's team activities to recover from his journey back to his Cambridgeshire home.

The rest of the Heathens took part in a clay pigeon shoot in Worcester organised by main team sponsor Dave Burns of Recycled Aggregates.

In the evening they enjoyed a meal and entertainment.

Football results and fixtures

Dudley & Cradley Heath

Ray Turley Memorial Competition

Group 1: Pensnett Utd 4 Spills

Medway 0; Cockey 0; King 0

Joe Stanton Memorial Trophy

Round 2: Dudley Olympic 2 King

William 0.

Premier Division: Baggeridge 3

Bush Ath. 7.

Division 1: Darley Moors Wdrs 6

Forest Falcons 1; Matt Shovel Ath 7

Village Dudley 0; Ocker Hill Wagon 6

Halesowen Members 1; Dudley Utd 1

Britannia 2; Rutton Harriers 7 Tenth

Lock 1; Sedgley White Lion 2 Hadcroft

Rvs 3.

Fixtures: Sunday, March 10

Ray Turley Memorial Competition

Group 1: Three Crowns v Bush Ath.

Cockey 0; King 0; Sedgley 0

Joe Stanton Memorial Trophy

Round 2: Dudley Olympic v Britannia

Premier Division: Baggeridge 3

Spills Meadow; Lloyds v Wackers.

Division 1: Dudley Olympic v Halesowen

Members 0; Darley 0; Matt Shovel Ath; Rutton Harriers v Sedgley

White Lion; Village Dudley v Tenth

Lock.



Steven Pearce lands an uppercut
Picture: UKO Boxing/Rob Ellis Photography

Brawl win champion for Steve

STOURBRIDGE'S Steven Pearce was crowned the new Midlands welterweight champion after seizing the belt in a blistering five-round brawl at Burton Town Hall.

Fierce Pierce stepped into the contest at four days' notice to replace Walsall's Joel Ryan, who had a chest infection.

Pearce tackled Derby's Luke Gallear for the vacant crown last Friday night. The 28-year-old Stourbridge man had been training to box at Wolverhampton Civic Hall this Saturday, so was reasonably fight-fit and

Boxing

flew out of the blocks against an equally up-for-it Gallear. Both tore into each other and traded punches at will with defences conspicuous by their absence.

But it was Pearce who was starting to get the upper hand, wading in with uppercuts. That pressure told as battle resumed for the second round.

Gallear hit the floor and was left dazed with blood leaking from his nose, but he managed to battle back.

However, his spirited resolve

was finally broken in the fifth round after three gutsy sessions.

Pearce kept throwing right hands that hit the target every time, finally forcing the referee to step in and stop the fight.

It's some turnaround for Pearce fight-to-fight. He was eliminated from the welterweight Prizefighter contest at the Civic at the first hurdle in January, but has responded with a title success in his very

outing on the undercard, a five-star show from Brierley Hill's Kyle

Spencer saw him score his first victory inside the distance – and he got the job done in the very first round.

Competing in his fifth contest as a professional, 'Kyle the Style' stayed cool as opponent Jimmy Price, Burton-born but now boxing out of Swadlincote in Derbyshire, charged forward.

It was a foolish strategy – Price twice visited the canvas from left hooks and had his nose bled by light-middleweight Spencer, 23.

The referee ended the fight within the first three minutes.

Glassboys keep up pressure at the top

Stourbridge 3 Bideford 1

TWO late goals from top scorer Luke Benbow saw the Glassboys maintain the pressure on the two sides when they in the Evi-Stok Southern Premier.

Chasing Leamington and Hemel Hempstead Town, Stourbridge threatened on 21 minutes as a Jamie Oliver ball to Luke Benbow saw him screw a shot off-target.

Two minutes later Bideford's Aaron Harper-Pennman glanced a free header wide but Stourbridge keeper Dean Coleman's goal-kick found Benbow, whose shot was deflected for a corner by Bideford keeper Tim Sandercombe.

In the 26th minute Ben Billingham touched the ball inside for Sean Geddes to shoot over.

In the 62nd minute Benbow crossed and James McPike sent a back-heel across the face of the goal.

Pressure

Five minutes later, the Glassboys got a penalty for handball by Jack Furzer as he jumped with arms to challenge McPike.

Geddes sent Sandercombe the wrong way with his kick to put the hosts ahead, but Bideford levelled on 78 minutes as Connor Clifford inswinging corner from the right saw Sean Downing able to hold a rasping long range drive from Geddes to restore the lead.

Stourbridge made sure of victory in the 88th minute as substitute James Spray slipped Benbow away in the left-hand channel area to round Sandercombe and seal the three points.

DK pay penalty over failure to take chances

Birmingham Solihull 25 Dudley Kingswinford 22

DUDLEY KINGSWINFORD threw away a great chance to claim their National League Two North away win of the season.

They led 22-10 at the break courtesy of a brilliant hat-trick of tries from Josh Watkins and had seen the Bees reduced to 14 men after 20 minutes when their No 8 Rob Connolly threw a haymaker and was red-carded.

DK had the edge but rejected a couple of fairly straightforward penalty opportunities early in the second half to run the ball.

Injuries to Al Francis, Tom Leah, Josh Buggea, Chris Perry and Pete Knight saw DK come under increasing pressure as Bees pulled back the deficit and took a three-point lead – the pack swamping a depleted DK.

DK had a final minute penalty but tapped and ran. The move was snuffed out. The visitors lost the first scrum against the head and Bees led after five minutes.

Strong forward play provided a platform before the ball was swung wide for full back Oscar Heath to brush off tackles to score. Scrum-half Jack Jolly converted.

Gareth Bowden scored a seven-minute penalty for 7-3 but Bees were ominous in the set scrum, although DK won a lot of loose ball. Connolly was dismissed for a punch thrown at Matt Farrington and DK stormed off forwards. Stefan Shillingford broke the fine to send in left-wing Watkins for his first try. Brown converted for DK to lead 10-7, but Jolly's

Dudley Kingswinford

penalty tied it. DK were still getting a lot of possession in the loose and good, quick three-quarter play after 35 minutes saw the ball spun for Watkins to skin the opposition for a second try.

In stoppage time Watkins brilliantly wrong-footed the remaining cover to scorch in, Bowden converting.

After DK rejected two penalty chances, Bees bounced back. Jolly kicked a 50th-minute penalty and prop went over to cut the gap to four points.

Bees poured forward and when Joe Carpenter got a yellow card for slowing the ball things became desperate for DK. Steve Leach drove over for the Bees' third try and Jolly's conversion put his side 25-22 up.

Back to 15 men, DK raised themselves for the last five minutes but turned down a kickable injury time penalty that would have seen them draw. They went for a penalty line-out catch and drive that ultimately failed.

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Winger Josh Watkins eludes the final tackler to sprint in for the first of his three scores. Pictures: Ian Jackson



Full stretch – Watkins bursts through the tackle to go over for his second try



Watkins is all smiles for the treble

Late goals help to keep away record

Avechurch Lions 11 West Hagley 11

TWO goals in the final seven minutes gave West Hagley the win and an unbeaten away record for six months.

They went behind in the 10th minute of this Central Warwickshire Division Four game, as Finley Andrews-Wood in scored. Fifty seconds from time, Tom Benbow bagged the winner.

West Hagley maintained their record.

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Victory is well worth the Waite for Town

Bridgnorth 1 Tipton Town 3

A **HUGELY** committed Tipton Town overcame their Midland Alliance counterparts by a two-goal margin.

All played a part, but Richard Huckfield, Danny Dubidat and keeper Jack Hayfield caught the eye.

Tipton had shots charged down and Bridgnorth got an opening but Hayfield kicked to touch.

Penalty calls in the 23rd minute were ignored after a the ball hit Richard Golding's outstretched arm.

Hayfield was booked for bringing down Liam Boad after sprinting from his goal.

In the 34th minute Karl Griffiths was booked for a foul on Hayfield.

After the break Tipton, playing up the slope, led as Plows' free-kick let Rory McFarlane in to score.

Bood levelled in the 61st minute after Mike Evans had hooked a clearance back into the Tipton goalmouth.

In the 69th minute Tipton skipper Tom Tonks, Mike Wardle and Karl Edwards fashioned a chance for Nathan Waite to net.

Bridgnorth threw caution to the wind but a counter-attack saw Waite score a second from close in. Anwar Olujobon was lucky to stay on after a foul on Huckfield.

Keeper gets red-carded

Dudley Sports O
Sporting Khalsa O

A TOUGH West Midlands Premier match finished goalless despite Khalsa losing debut keeper Chris Collins to a 75th-minute red card for dissent.

Both sides started at a real pace and intensity with tackles flying in but an injury to Reece Cotterill after 30 minutes saw the return of Mark Habbershaw from Khalsa.

With more threats in front of goal the best chance of the half fell to Habbershaw who went clean through on goal from a Danny Campbell through ball only to be denied by a fine save.

The second half saw Khalsa on top and creating the better chances.

Nicky Campbell had a great opportunity in the 65th minute but shot over from 10 yards out.

Collins' dismissal gave Sports an opportunity, but in the 80th minute they were denied the crucial goal by a double save from stand-in Liam Stanton.



Tournament winner Maria Catalano is congratulated by Woking Snooker Centre owner Bob Mason. Picture: Vicky Carter

Keen shopper Maria bags 10th title

JUST days after spending her entire birthday engaged in her second favourite activity, Maria Catalano bagged her 10th snooker title on the women's circuit.

The keen shopper and world No.1 defeated Portsmouth's Emma Bonney 3-0 in the final at Woking Snooker Centre to take a fifth Connie Gough Memorial trophy home to Dudley.

Catalano, who turned 31 shortly before Saturday's final, said: "This one always falls about three days after my birthday. It's great to win it because it's an extra birthday present."

"I could see Emma was playing well and I



Joy for Josh

Super hat-trick, but DK miss out

Page 47

Super Steven

Pearce prevails in brawling title bout

Page 47



e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

First win in five for changed Robins

Wendesfield 0 Dudley Town 2

AFTER BEATING SO MAN YAN 3-0, Catalano fell 1-0 down to Jaique Ip Wan In and gave herself "a bit of a telling off" before prevailing 3-1.

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Lack of entries had forced the World Ladies Billiards & Snooker Association to cancel the previous two tournaments. So Catalano was delighted a 17-strong field enabled the Connie Gough to proceed.

final. Leading 2-0 in the last-16, she admitted that Ng On Yee "didn't really give me another shot" as breaks of 65 and 67 forced a decider.

But a run of 76 from a cross double secured a 3-2 victory.

After beating So Man Yan 3-0, Catalano fell 1-0 down to Jaique Ip Wan In and gave herself "a bit of a telling off" before prevailing 3-1.

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Manager Andy Wyton made three changes to the side unfortunate to come away from league leaders Lyte Town empty-handed.

In came Alex Perry and Chris Whittaker for John Watkins and Richard Langford while Grant Joshua was preferred as Geoff Hill's strike partner, Drenz Bala dropping to the bench.

Also on the bench was 6ft 7in centre-forward Dominic Watson, who joined from Gornal Athletic.

Within a minute they were ahead as Hill drove past Sam Arnold and they remained in control as Hill and Joshua asked questions of the home side's defence.

Joshua sent a shot just past a post and Arnold saved a curving free-kick.

The hosts' Josh Cavel sliced into Aaron O'Malley's side netting and on 46 minutes had a shot cleared off the line by Perry.

On the hour mark Niki Faux turned a Grant Joshua cross home. Manager Wyton threw on Bala, Gadd and new-boy Watson as Town went looking for a third, but despite some heavy pressure and good efforts from Bala and Watson it never came.

The Robins appear back on track as they moved into a busy week of action.

They were due at Lyte Town on Tuesday night in the semi-final of the Midweek Floodlit Cup before returning to Amos Lane tonight, to take on Wednesfield once again in a delayed League Cup first round encounter.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, March 7, 2013.

GORNAL GO OUT AS MOORS MARCH ON

Spennymoor 3 Gornal Athletic 1

GORNAL'S excellent run in this year's FA Vase came to an end after a disappointing second-half performance allowed favourites Spennymoor to march into the semi-final.

The Peacocks settled into the game quickly and more than matched their opponents with some long spells of possession. A great run down the left by Chris Rabone found Matt Weyman whose shot was blocked by Daniel Moore.

The hosts had a golden chance to lead as Gavin Cogdon ran onto a through ball but his lob was well saved by James Pemberton.

Spennymoor, in their fifth successive home tie, went ahead in the 32nd minute after Cogdon was fouled by Robert Blair inside the area.

He sent Pemberton the wrong way from the spot.

Gornal still enjoyed a fair amount of possession, and Moors keeper Robert Dean kept them in front with a good save from Rabone's shot, although he could do nothing as the Peacocks equalised on half-time.

Lee Wherton's free-kick was headed into his own net by Lewis Dodds.

Penned

Spennymoor began to impose themselves on the game in the second half.

Mark Davison went close twice with headers, and Cogdon had the ball in the net but the goal was ruled out by the linesman, saying the ball went out of play.

Moors' celebrations were cut short again as Cogdon's cross was turned in by Davison; the linesman flagged for offside.

Pemberton made an excellent save to deny Cogdon to keep the scores level and it took until the 70th minute for Spennymoor to take the lead.

It fell for Cogdon to score his second of game.

Ricky Nichols had a chance late on, but his shot was blocked by the keeper.

Spennymoor Town: Dean Griffiths, Ryan Dodds, D. Moore, Capper, Ruddy (Walton, 59), Graydon, Davison (Rae, 79), Cogdon (Richardson, 79), Phillips.

Gornal Athletic: Pemberton, Green, Wood, Blair (Nicholls, 63), Waterhouse, Wilkhouse (Morgan, 78), Perks, Wherton, Weyman, Nisbet (Sangha, 84), Rabone.

■ Walsall Wood's Wembley dream is still alive – but they face a replay at Guernsey on Saturday after drawing 0-0 at home.

The Wood were left rueing their opportunities after having the better of their quarter-final in front of a crowd of 656 – swelled by around 200 from the Channel Island – at Oak Park.

The winners face Spennymoor in a two-legged semi-final.



New hope for Gornal as Lewis Dodds glances a header into his own net to bring the Peacocks level at Spennymoor

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